DC SUPERMAN
ACTION COMICS
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
FEB.
NO. 397
15¢
LOIS IS MARRIED.. JIMMY'S A BIG WHEEL... ALL MY FRIENDS, GONE!
THE WORLD DOESN'T NEED ME ANYMORE!
INFANTINO + ANDERSON
WHY? WHAT WAS "THE SECRET OF THE WHEEL-CHAIR SUPERMAN"?

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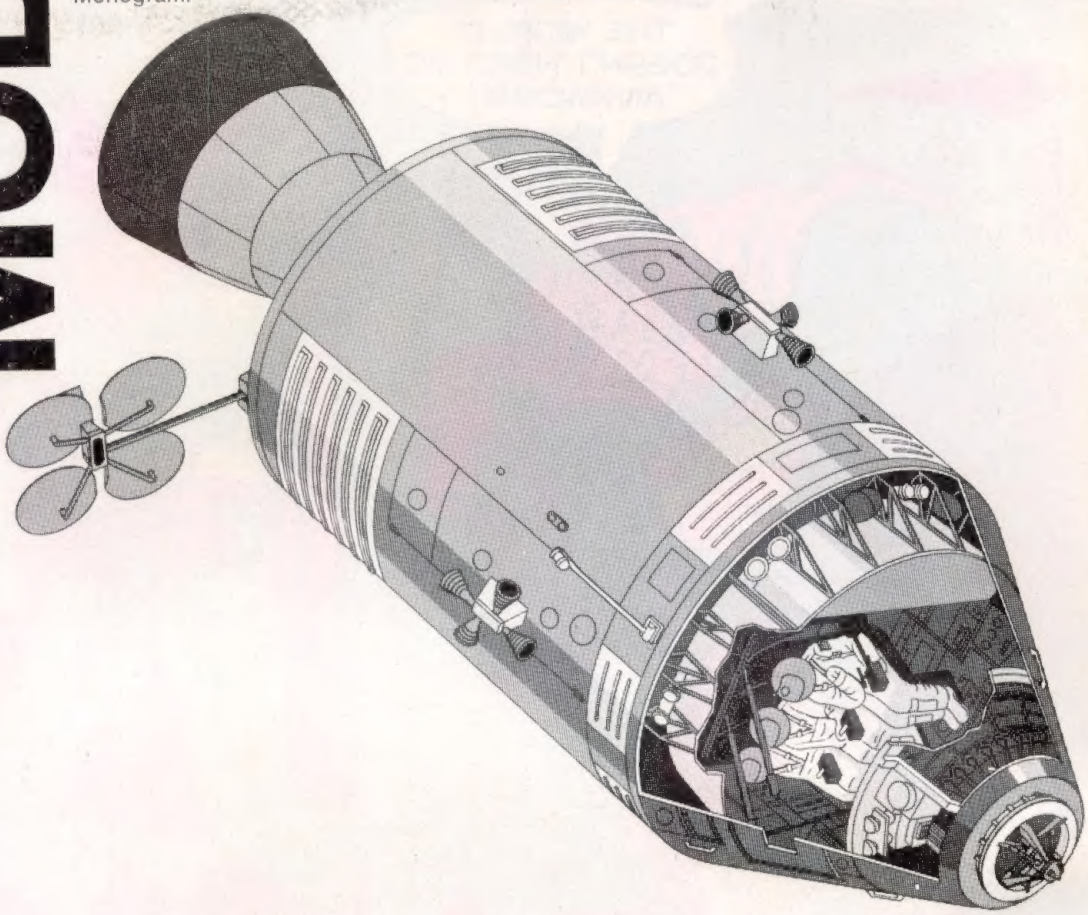
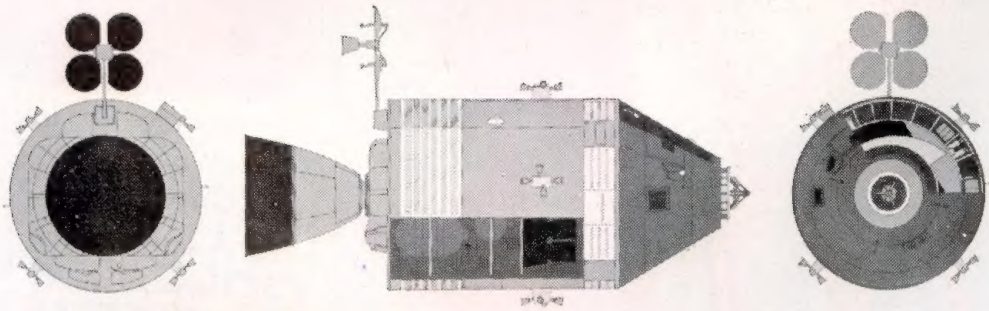
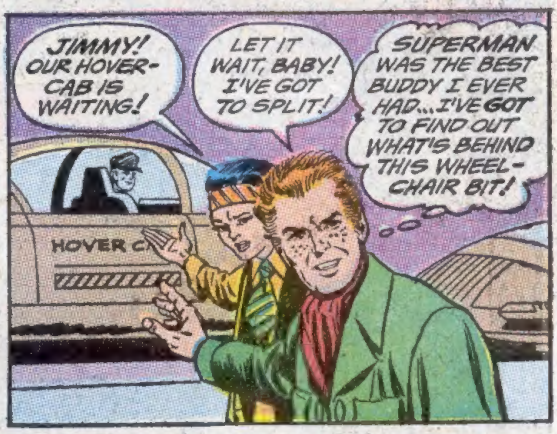




SUPERMAN
COME WITH US... TO AN IMAGINARY DAY IN THE 1990's... TO THE FUTURE YEARS WHEN EX-REPORTER JIMMY OLSEN IS NOW A BIG-WHEEL TV PRODUCER!
AND YOU'LL SIGN ME FOR YOUR NEW TELEVISION SERIES, JIMMY?
BUT NATCH, DOLL!
EXCUSE ME! THIS POOR GUY NEEDS A HANDOUT!
KLINNK!

BUT AS THE COIN BOUNCES...
HOLY HALLUCINATIONS! IT'S MY OLD PAL, SUPERMAN! HAVEN'T SEEN HIM SINCE MY DAYS ON THE NEWSPAPER!
SUPERMAN? DIDN'T HE RETIRE?
HE HASN'T BEEN AROUND IN YEARS!
I THOUGHT HE WAS DEAD!


JIMMY! OUR HOVER-CAB IS WAITING!
LET IT WAIT, BABY! I'VE GOT TO SPLIT!
SUPERMAN WAS THE BEST BUDDY I EVER HAD... I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT WHAT'S BEHIND THIS WHEEL-CHAIR BIT!

BUT AS THE RUBBERNECKING CROWD CLOSES IN...
HOW ABOUT YOUR AUTOGRAPH, SUPERMAN?
SOMETHING HAPPEN TO YOUR POWERS, SUPIE? ANSWER INTO THIS TAPE CASSETTE, PLEASE!
JUST ONE MORE SHOT, SUPERMAN!
GET AWAY!
HELP THE HERCY
B-826
1

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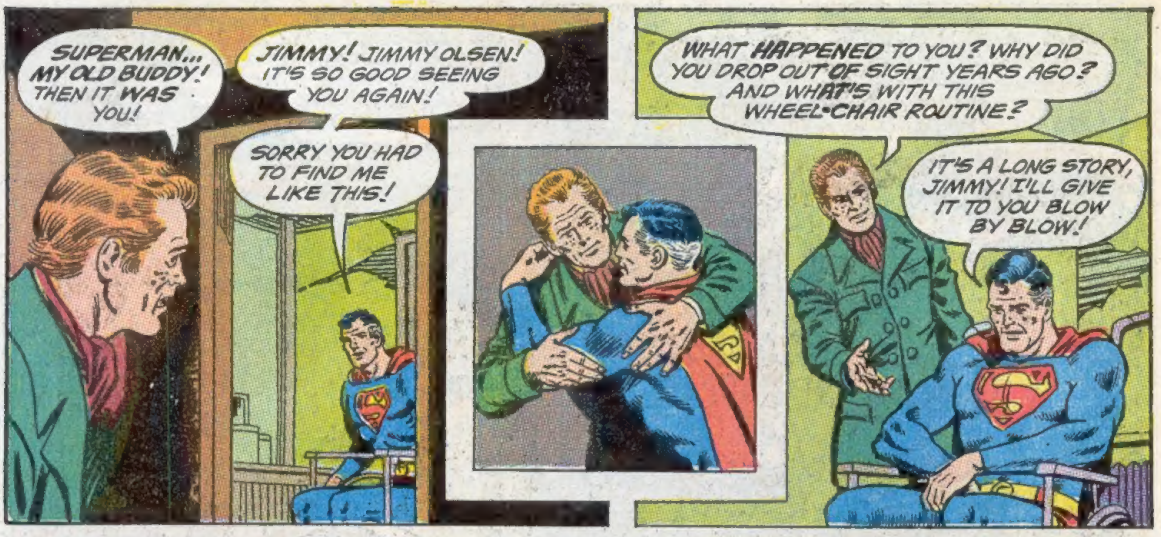
WITHIN MOMENTS, THE PITILESS CURIOSITY-SEEKERS ARE IN FULL CRY...
AND HERE'S A SPECIAL TREAT FOR ALL YOU SIGHTSEERS...
ON YOUR LEFT IS A LANDMARK OF METROPOLIS' PAST, THE MIGHTY...ER... ONCE MIGHTY SUPERMAN!
OUTA SIGHT!
LIKE WOW!
WOULD YOU BELIEVE IT? IN A WHEEL CHAIR, YET!
HELP THE NEEDY
HAVE A HEART! LEAVE ME ALONE!
ART: SWAN & ANDERSON
STORY: LEO DORFMAN

YES, ONCE AGAIN WE VISIT THAT IMAGINARY DAY IN THE FUTURE WHEN A PUSH-BUTTON, ADVANCED SCIENCE HAS TURNED THE WORLD'S GREATEST HERO INTO A RELIC OF THE PAST... AN OUTDATED MUSEUM PIECE! HOW DID FATE TRANSFORM THE RENOWNED MAN OF STEEL INTO A DISABLED HAS-BEEN? FOR THE ASTONISHING ANSWER, READ THE REVEALING...

"SECRET OF THE WHEEL-CHAIR SUPERMAN!"

HARASSED AND HOUNDED, SUPERMAN FLEES THE SENSATION-SEEKERS...
HELP THE NEEDY
I'M NO CIRCUS FREAK! WHY DON'T PEOPLE LEAVE ME IN PEACE? IN THE OLD DAYS, I'D STREAK AWAY AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT!
LUCKILY, I STILL HAVE A FEW MEAGER POWERS LEFT!... THOSE STREET PUDDLES GIVE ME AN IDEA!
MY HEAT VISION IS SCALDING THOSE PUDDLES INTO A HEAVY MIST...
COVERING MY RETREAT WHILE I DUCK INTO THIS ALLEY!
HSSSSSSS!
LONG AFTERWARD, IN A DISMAL POVERTY AREA...
ON THIS SITE THE CITY OF METROPO WILL ERECT A MODEL 100-STORY CO-OPERATIVE APARTM
SAFE!... NO ONE WOULD DREAM THAT I, WHO ONCE OWNED THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST FORTRESS, NOW LIVE IN THIS DECAYING SLUM!
BUT, SOON AFTERWARD, WITHIN THE ABANDONED TENEMENT...
THUMP THUMP
OH, NO! I THOUGHT I ESCAPED THOSE VULTURES! ONE OF THEM MUST HAVE FOLLOWED ME HERE! BUT WHO? AND WHY?
C-COME IN!
3


SUPERMAN... MY OLD BUDDY! THEN IT WAS YOU!
JIMMY! JIMMY OLSEN! IT'S SO GOOD SEEING YOU AGAIN!
SORRY YOU HAD TO FIND ME LIKE THIS!
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU? WHY DID YOU DROP OUT OF SIGHT YEARS AGO? AND WHAT'S WITH THIS WHEEL-CHAIR ROUTINE?
IT'S A LONG STORY, JIMMY! I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU BLOW BY BLOW!

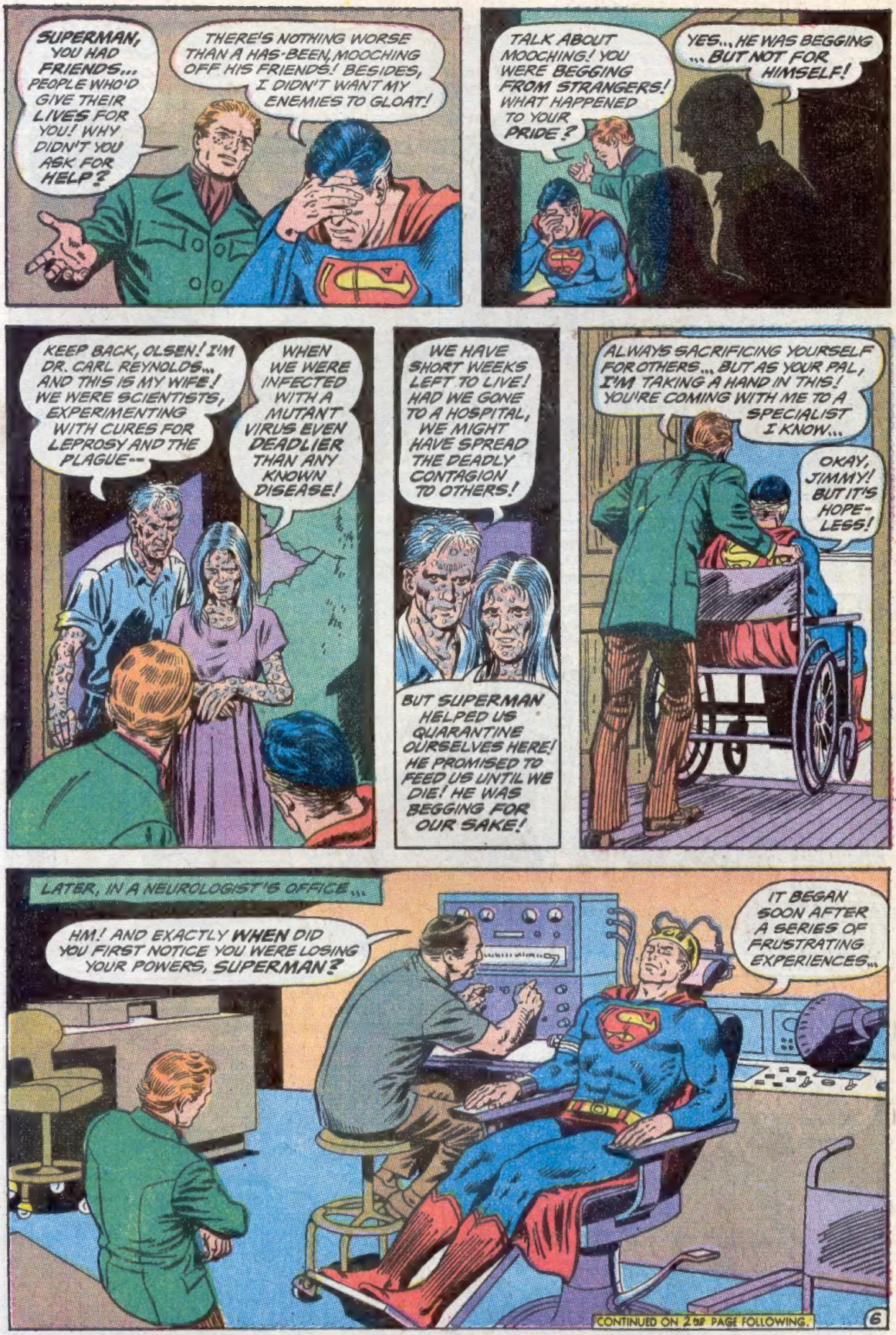
"IT BEGAN AFTER I ENDED A MISSION! WHEN I TRIED TO FLY AWAY..."
WHAT'S HAPPENING? I CAN'T TAKE OFF! SUDDENLY, I HAVE ALL THE FLYING ABILITY OF A LEAD BRICK! MUST BE SOME TEMPORARY EFFECT ON MY POWERS!

"BUT TO MY INCREASING HORROR, I SOON DISCOVERED THAT OTHER POWERS WERE DWINDLING, TOO, UNTIL..."
NOT ONLY HAS MY SUPER-STRENGTH VANISHED, BUT SUDDENLY I'M EVEN WEAKER THAN A NORMAL HUMAN! I NEED A CANE TO WALK!

HOLD IT! THAT WAS ABOUT THE TIME CLARK KENT BEGAN WALKING WITH A CANE, TOO! DOES THAT MEAN...?
YES, JIMMY! I MAY AS WELL ADMIT IT! IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE NOW! CLARK WAS MY SECRET IDENTITY!

"EACH DAY I GREW WEAKER, UNTIL THE OWNER OF THE COMPANY WHICH BOUGHT OUT THE 'DAILY PLANET' CALLED ME ON THE CARPET..."
KENT, YOU STAYED OUT SICK FOR THE LAST TIME! YOU'RE THROUGH... FINISHED ...WASHED UP!
AND I'M WASHED UP AS SUPERMAN, TOO!

"STILL HOPING MY CONDITION WAS TEMPORARY, I USED SUPER-ROBOTS FOR MY MISSIONS... BUT ONE BY ONE..."
I WASN'T NEEDED AT THE EMERGENCY, MASTER! THE AUTOMATED WELDER REPAIRED THE STORM-DAMAGED TV TOWER BEFORE I ARRIVED!...
MY LAST ROBOT... GOOD FOR NOTHING BUT SCRAP NOW!
BUT LIGHTNING STRUCK ME ON THE WAY HOME!
"EVERYTHING STARTED GOING DOWNHILL FOR ME! WITHOUT SAVINGS, I WAS EVICTED FROM ONE HOUSE AFTER ANOTHER..."
YOU HEARD ME! PAY UP OR GET OUT! THAT WHEEL-CHAIR CUTS NO ICE WITH ME!
ROOMS FOR RENT
MANAGER
IRONIC! I GAVE AWAY BILLIONS TO CHARITY! NOW I DON'T EVEN HAVE MONEY FOR RENT!
BUT WHY DIDN'T YOU SEE A DOCTOR? WHY DIDN'T YOU APPLY FOR WELFARE?
EARTH'S FINEST SPECIALISTS KNOW LITTLE ABOUT SUPER-POWERS! AS FOR WELFARE...
"...ONE DAY, I STARTED FOR THE RELIEF OFFICE, BUT..."
TO THEM, I'M THE LAST OF THE GREAT HEROES, LIKE KING ARTHUR... WASHINGTON... LINCOLN! HOW CAN I DESTROY THEIR FAITH IN THEIR IDOL?
UNITED NATIONS WAR REFUGEE FUND
5


SUPERMAN, YOU HAD FRIENDS... PEOPLE WHO'D GIVE THEIR LIVES FOR YOU! WHY DIDN'T YOU ASK FOR HELP?
THERE'S NOTHING WORSE THAN A HAS-BEEN, MOOCHING OFF HIS FRIENDS! BESIDES, I DIDN'T WANT MY ENEMIES TO GLOAT!
TALK ABOUT MOOCHING! YOU WERE BEGGING FROM STRANGERS! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR PRIDE?
YES... HE WAS BEGGING ... BUT NOT FOR HIMSELF!
KEEP BACK, OLSEN! I'M DR. CARL REYNOLDS... AND THIS IS MY WIFE! WE WERE SCIENTISTS, EXPERIMENTING WITH CURES FOR LEPROSY AND THE PLAGUE--
WHEN WE WERE INFECTED WITH A MUTANT VIRUS EVEN DEADLIER THAN ANY KNOWN DISEASE!
WE HAVE SHORT WEEKS LEFT TO LIVE! HAD WE GONE TO A HOSPITAL, WE MIGHT HAVE SPREAD THE DEADLY CONTAGION TO OTHERS!
BUT SUPERMAN HELPED US QUARANTINE OURSELVES HERE! HE PROMISED TO FEED US UNTIL WE DIE! HE WAS BEGGING FOR OUR SAKE!
ALWAYS SACRIFICING YOURSELF FOR OTHERS... BUT AS YOUR PAL, I'M TAKING A HAND IN THIS! YOU'RE COMING WITH ME TO A SPECIALIST I KNOW...
OKAY, JIMMY! BUT IT'S HOPE-LESS!
LATER, IN A NEUROLOGIST'S OFFICE...
HM! AND EXACTLY WHEN DID YOU FIRST NOTICE YOU WERE LOSING YOUR POWERS, SUPERMAN?
IT BEGAN SOON AFTER A SERIES OF FRUSTRATING EXPERIENCES...
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.
6

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"FOR WEEKS, MY MISSIONS HAD BEEN FIZZLING..."
SKIP IT, SUPERMAN! THIS FLOTATION COLLAR WILL KEEP OUR DAMAGED SHIP AFLOAT UNTIL WE CAN MAKE PORT!
GLAD YOU DON'T NEED ME, CAPTAIN!
"BUT FRUITLESS MISSIONS SOON BECAME A PATTERN..."
THANKS FOR NOTHING, SUPERMAN! THIS CRYOGENIC RAY FROZE THE FLOOD WATERS INTO A GIANT DAM OF ICE! WE SAVED THIS TOWN BY OURSELVES!
LOOKS LIKE I STRUCK OUT AGAIN! IT'S GETTING TO BE A HABIT!
"THEN, ONE DAY AS I RESPONDED TO A POLLUTION ALERT..."
I'LL GET RID OF THIS HAZARD BY CREATING A CYCLONIC UPDRAFT TO DRAW AWAY THIS SMOKE!
SUPERMAN! YOU'RE FOULING UP A VITAL EXPERIMENT! THAT SMOKE CONTAINS A NEW SELF-DECONTAMINATING CHEMICAL WE'RE TESTING!
SWANDERSON
"THOSE SCIENTISTS MADE ME FEEL LIKE AN IDIOT..."
NOTICE HOW THE SUNLIGHT PRECIPITATES THE SMOKE INTO A RAIN OF JEWEL-LIKE DROPS!
HM! ODD HOW THOSE CHEMICALS FILTER THE LIGHT OF THE SUN AND TURN IT RED!
THAT SHOWER OF CHEMICALS FORMS AN INSTANT FERTILIZER, WHICH MAKES CROPS GROW BEFORE YOUR EYES!
FRANKLY, WITH OUR SCIENTIFIC ADVANCES, WHO NEEDS YOU, SUPERMAN? HA-HA-HA!

"SOON AFTERWARD, AS I TRIED TO TAKE OFF..."
STRANGE! SUDDENLY, MY FLYING POWER IS GONE!
I WONDER IF THAT ODD RED-SUN EFFECT* CREATED BY THAT CHEMICAL RAIN AFFECTED ME?
*SUPERMAN HAS NO POWER UNDER A RED SUN!
THAT WAS THE BEGINNING! OVER THE WEEKS, MY POWERS FADED AWAY... EXCEPT FOR MY SUPER-VISION, SUPER-HEARING AND INVULNERABILITY!
I THINK I UNDERSTAND YOUR SYMPTOMS NOW!
GOOD NEWS, SUPERMAN! MY INSTRUMENTS INDICATE YOU NEVER LOST YOUR POWERS! YOUR SUPER-ABILITIES ARE STILL INTACT!
BUT YOU'RE SUFFERING FROM A KIND OF MENTAL HYSTERIA WHICH BLOCKS THEIR USE!
I'D CALL IT A PANIC SYNDROME.. WHICH AROSE WHEN YOU FEARED THE WORLD NO LONGER NEEDED YOU... OR YOUR POWERS!
A BRILLIANT DIAGNOSIS, DOCTOR!
BUT IF I DO HAVE MY POWERS, WHERE'S THE SWITCH THAT TURNS THEM ON? WHY CAN'T I FLY? WHY CAN'T I EVEN WALK?
YOU DON'T HAVE THE ANSWER, DO YOU, DOC?
SUPERMAN... DON'T THROW IN THE TOWEL! PERHAPS SOME THERAPY--
FORGET IT, JIMMY! AND FORGET ME, TOO! I'M THROUGH, WASHED UP! IT'S MY FUNERAL!
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.
8

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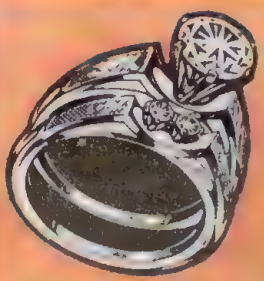

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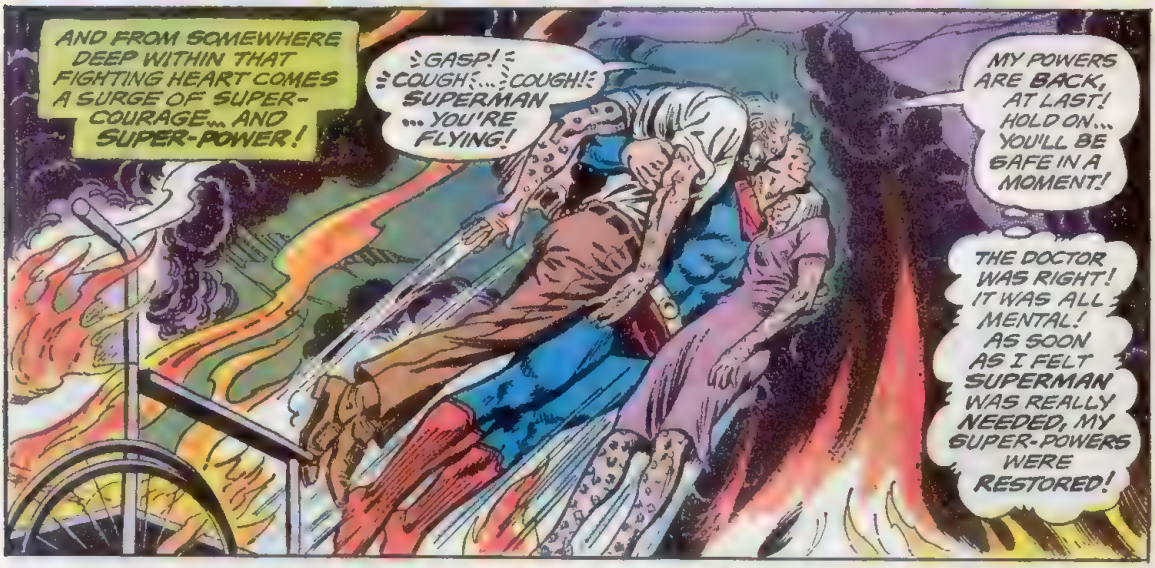
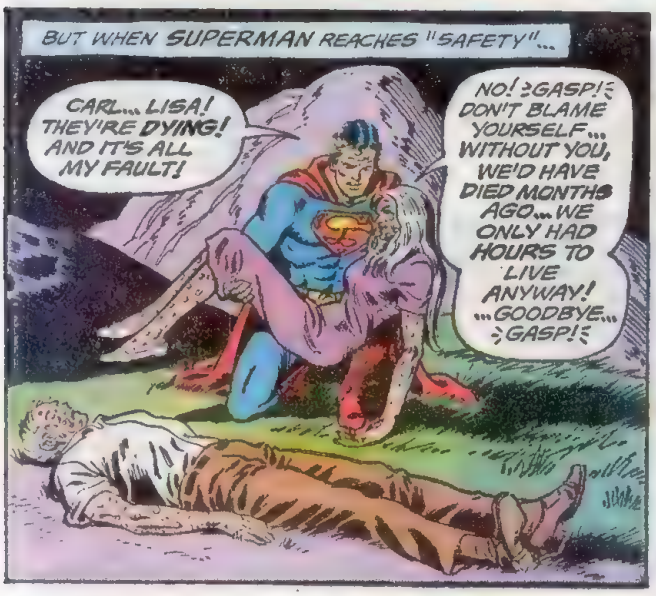
THAT NIGHT, IN SUPERMAN'S WRETCHED FLAT...
WHAT A FINISH FOR A SUPER-HERO! THE MIGHTY SUPERMAN USING HIS HEAT VISION TO DRY HIS LAUNDRY!
LOST IN THOUGHT, HE FORGETS TO CONTROL HIS POWERS!
SUPERMAN! YOUR HEAT VISION SET OUR PLACE ON FIRE! WE'RE SURROUNDED BY FLAMES!
OH, NO!
DON'T PANIC! THE FIRE SENSORS ON THE LAMPPOSTS NEARBY MUST HAVE DETECTED THE BLAZE AND ALERTED THE FIRE DEPARTMENT BY NOW!
YES, IN THE AUTOMATED WORLD OF THE 1990'S, FIREMEN RESPOND, BUT...
OUR WALL OF FIREPROOF FOAM WILL PREVENT THE FLAMES FROM SPREADING!
NO ONE'S IN THESE ABANDONED BUILDINGS! THEY WERE MARKED FOR DEMOLITION!
MEANWHILE, ENGULPED BY THE RAGING SEA OF FIRE...
SUPERMAN! YOU'RE STILL INVULNERABLE... BUT THOSE FLAMES WILL KILL US! CAN'T YOU DO SOMETHING... ANYTHING?
DO WHAT? YOU KNOW I HAVE NO SUPER-STRENGTH... AND NO FLYING POWER... DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND!?
NO... I CAN'T GIVE UP SO EASILY... I CAN'T LET THOSE PEOPLE DIE WITHOUT PUTTING UP A FIGHT!

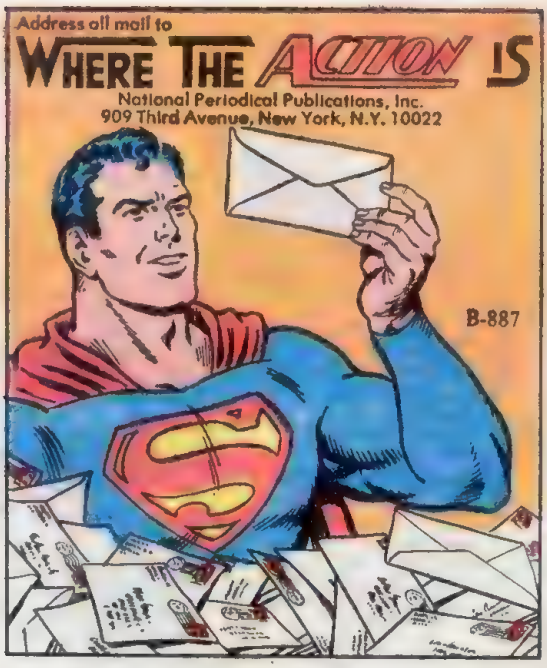
I'VE GOT TO TRY... TRY!
I'VE GOT TO HELP THEM... SAVE THEM!
THEY NEED ME...
THEY NEED SUPERMAN!


AND FROM SOMEWHERE DEEP WITHIN THAT FIGHTING HEART COMES A SURGE OF SUPER-COURAGE... AND SUPER-POWER!
GASP! COUGH!... COUGH! SUPERMAN ... YOU'RE FLYING!
MY POWERS ARE BACK, AT LAST! HOLD ON... YOU'LL BE SAFE IN A MOMENT!
THE DOCTOR WAS RIGHT! IT WAS ALL MENTAL! AS SOON AS I FELT SUPERMAN WAS REALLY NEEDED, MY SUPER-POWERS WERE RESTORED!


BUT WHEN SUPERMAN REACHES "SAFETY"...
CARL... LISA! THEY'RE DYING! AND IT'S ALL MY FAULT!
NO! GASP! DON'T BLAME YOURSELF... WITHOUT YOU, WE'D HAVE DIED MONTHS AGO... WE ONLY HAD HOURS TO LIVE ANYWAY! ...GOODBYE... GASP!

THEY'RE DEAD... BUT THEY DIDN'T DIE IN VAIN! BECAUSE OF THEM, SUPERMAN WAS REBORN! I...I'LL NEVER FORGET THEM!

LATER, AS SUPERMAN'S FISTS OF STEEL CARVE A TOMB DEEP IN THE EARTH...
UNDERNEATH THIS MILE-HIGH MOUNTAIN, THERE IS NO DANGER THAT THEIR BODIES WILL EVER SPREAD CONTAMINATION! MAY THEY REST IN PEACE!
HERE LIE CARL AND LISA REYNOLDS WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR SCIENCE
AND NOW TO ANNOUNCE TO THE WORLD THAT SUPERMAN IS BACK-- WITH ALL HIS ABILITIES AND POWERS! I CAN'T WAIT TO HEAR THE CHEERS!
OH, NO-- I JUST REMEMBERED!
THIS WORLD DOESN'T NEED ME ANY MORE. WITH ALL THE ADVANCED SCIENCE OF TODAY, MANKIND IS BUILDING A SUPER-CIVILIZATION! WHO KNOWS, MAN HIMSELF MAY BECOME SUPER!
FACE IT! SUPERMAN IS OBSOLETE NOW, HERE ON EARTH!
BUT SOMEWHERE OUT THERE AMONG THE MILLIONS OF GALAXIES, THERE MUST BE A WORLD LIKE THE EARTH I ONCE KNEW... A WORLD THAT STILL NEEDS A SUPERMAN!
YES... SUCH A DAY AS THIS MAY YET COME...THE SAD DAY WHEN SUPERMAN LEAVES EARTH FOREVER! BUT ISN'T IT GREAT TO KNOW THAT THIS IS AN IMAGINARY STORY AND THAT SUPERMAN IS STILL WITH US?
THE End



Dear Editor:

I always have an excited feeling when I see a new ACTION comic on the stands, and #393 was no exception. I found "Superman Meets Super-Houdini" quite exciting. Then I saw what I, and I'm sure all readers, have been waiting for, a chance to start a Superman scrapbook. Please give us more of the same. Then, I turned the page and began to read the story I've always wanted to read, "The Day Superboy Became Superman." What an issue! Three winners in a row!

But then I came to the letter column. Irene Vartanoff is a legend in the comic world and I always enjoy her letters. This was no exception. That's telling 'em, Irene!

To conclude, I want to say I can't stand people who buy a comic and tell you the mistakes in it. Nobody's perfect, even at DC! I am still waiting for some letter in which a writer found a mistake in the quality of the paper with a magnifying glass!

—John Krzyston, Detroit, Mich.

If we know those fault-finders, they won't stop if the magnifying glass fails. They'll get hold of an electron microscope!—Editor.

Dear Editor:

National has really been spoiling me! The recent mags have been so wonderful that if a lemon should come along, I'd show vehement disapproval.

No. 393 continued the trend of greatness. "Superman Meets Super-Houdini" was very enjoyable. The last panel, where Supie wishes he had a son like Dan, was very touching, but I can't feel sorry for him. He could have married Lois. After all, she fell for him when he was *sans* powers, and if he'd shown her his human side as Clark Kent, they could be happily wed and perhaps the parents of "a son like Dan."

The second tale was a pleasant surprise; I hope more of these are planned. It's great when a writer can combine entertainment and a moral.

Oh, and the name of the artist who did that gag page—Henry Boltinoff. Any relation to an editor named Boltinoff, whose first name escapes me at the moment?

Gerard Triano, Elmont, N.Y.

Editor Murray is the brother of Henry, one of the nation's best gag cartoonists. Collier's *magazine once named Henry one of the ten top gag artists in the country. His work has appeared in innumerable popular magazines. He does a successful syndicated feature called* Stoker the Broker*—which even appears in Japan.—Editor.*

Dear Editor:

No. 393 was the first ACTION issue edited by you, sir, and I was expecting something different, a change for a change. But I guess I'll have to wait for the Jan. SUPERMAN to see any big changes.

The issue was good, anyway, but it was the second story that really got me. I knew our hero entered Metropolis U. as Superboy and left as Superman, and I knew he didn't wake up one day and decide he was Superman all of a sudden. There had to be some event that allowed the BOY of Steel to do or learn something that would make him a MAN of Steel. Geoff Brown's story clears all this up. I noticed at the end of the story, Superman (boy?) looked the same as at the beginning, and was outwardly the same person he had been. Thus, the change from boy to man was inside him, a maturity that comes from experience.

I hope Geoff Brown becomes a regular on your staff, whoever he is.

Alan R. Ferguson, La Habra, Calif.

He already is! As a matter of fact, "Geoff" is really Leo Dorfman, who scripted the other story in the issue as well! Because of this, we decided to give him a pen name for the second yarn. In writing the Superboy-Superman tale, Leo drew on his childhood in New York's lower East Side, which had earlier inspired the highly acclaimed "Secret Slumlord of Metropolis" in JIMMY OLSEN.—Editor.

Dear Editor:

About #393, I feel the need to protest. The magazine was one of the best issues you've published. So what am I protesting? The lack of warning of the complete dropping of the Legion of Super-Heroes. Is this permanent?

There is also a question I would like to ask about the second story. Many years ago, another story was printed about how Superboy became Superman. In it, Clark Kent was given a lie-detector test and asked if he was Superboy. He had just changed his name to Superman, so he truthfully answered No. Do the two stories fit together? If not, you have an excuse; the story in #393 was more about the status of his mind than his name.

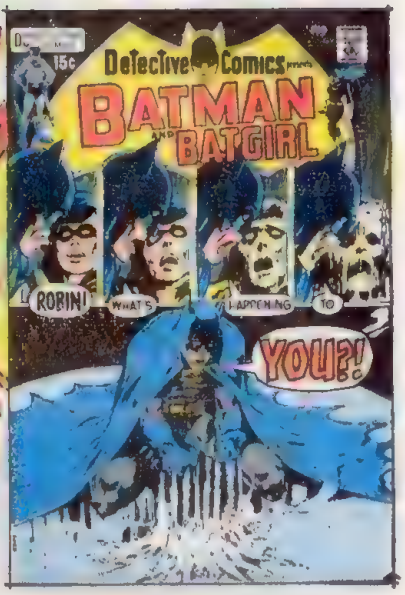
Barbara Reader, New Hyde Park, N.Y.

No contradiction. Simply assume it was the influence of Marla Harvey that caused Superboy to change his name just before the lie test was made, and all "contradictions" are out.

As for the Legion, if you'd read our Letter Page in #393, you'd know they're moving to SUPERBOY, and will appear in #172, on sale the first week in January of '71. Also, there'll be an ADVENTURE GIANT starring the Legion on the stands January 12. It features one of the most requested series of stories ever printed—the death and return of Lightning Lad! There are plenty of Legion landmarks in this issue, so don't dare miss it!—Editor.

DC EXPLODES in '71

BOTH DC HITS ON SALE DEC. 31



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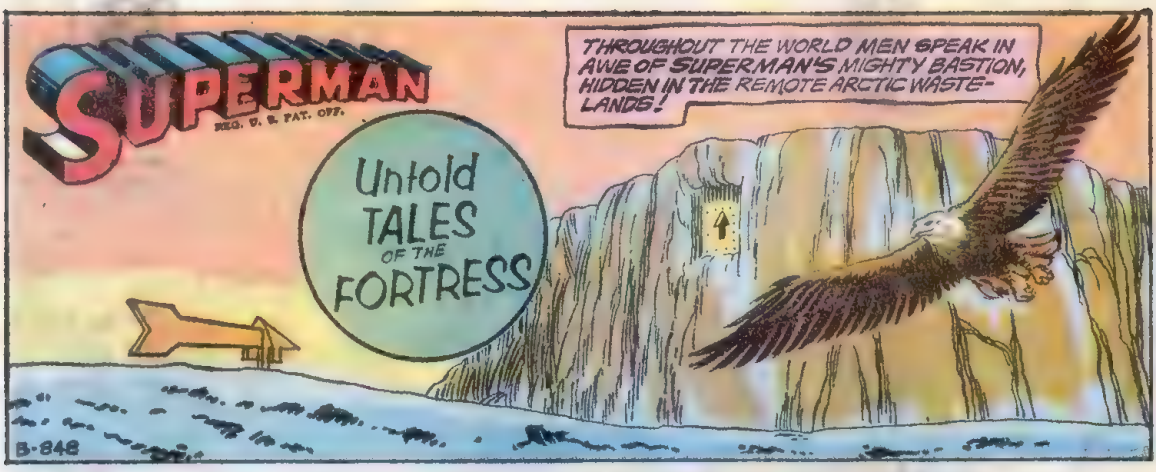
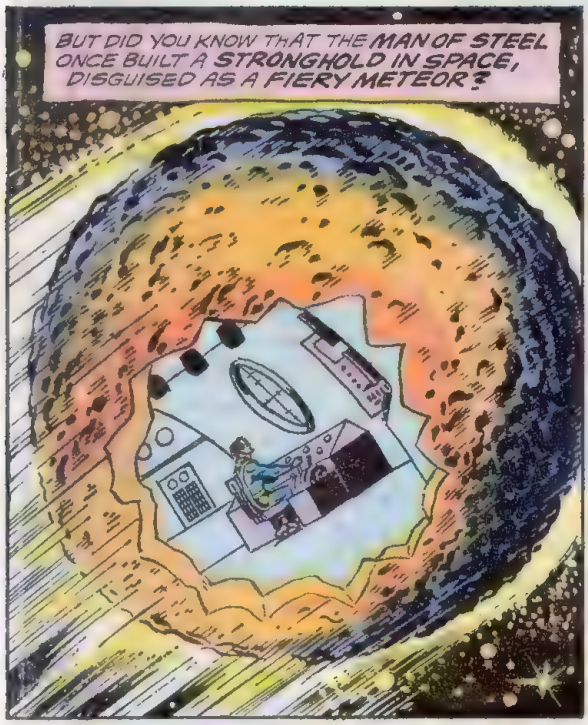
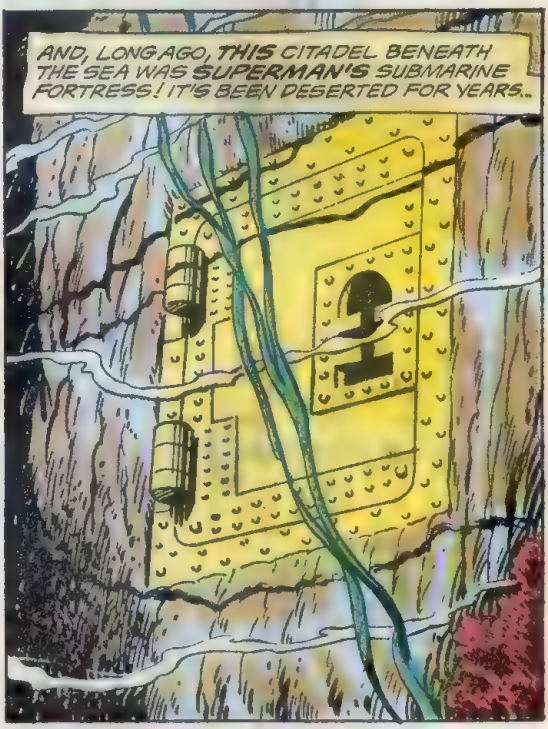
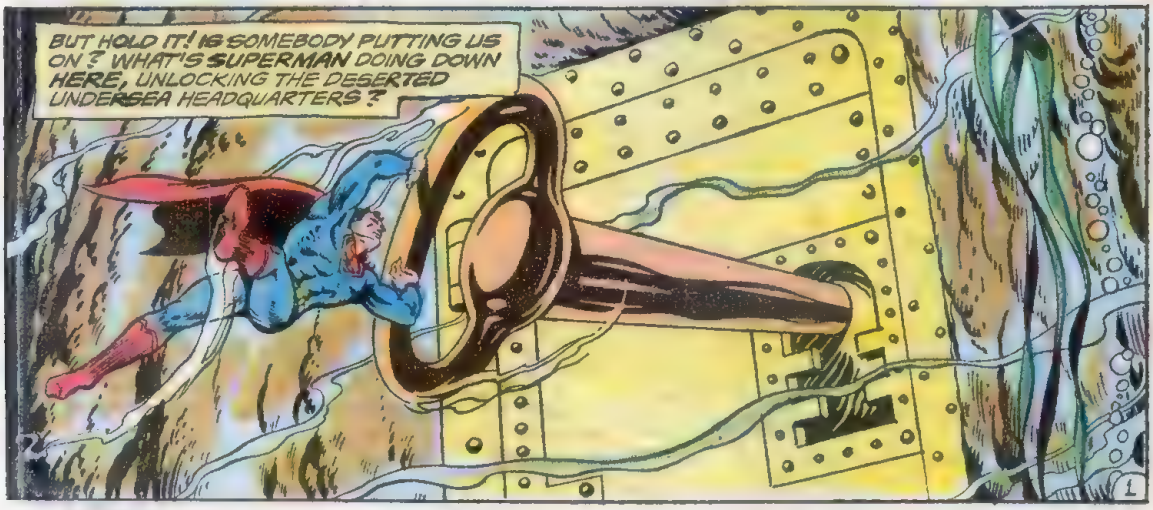
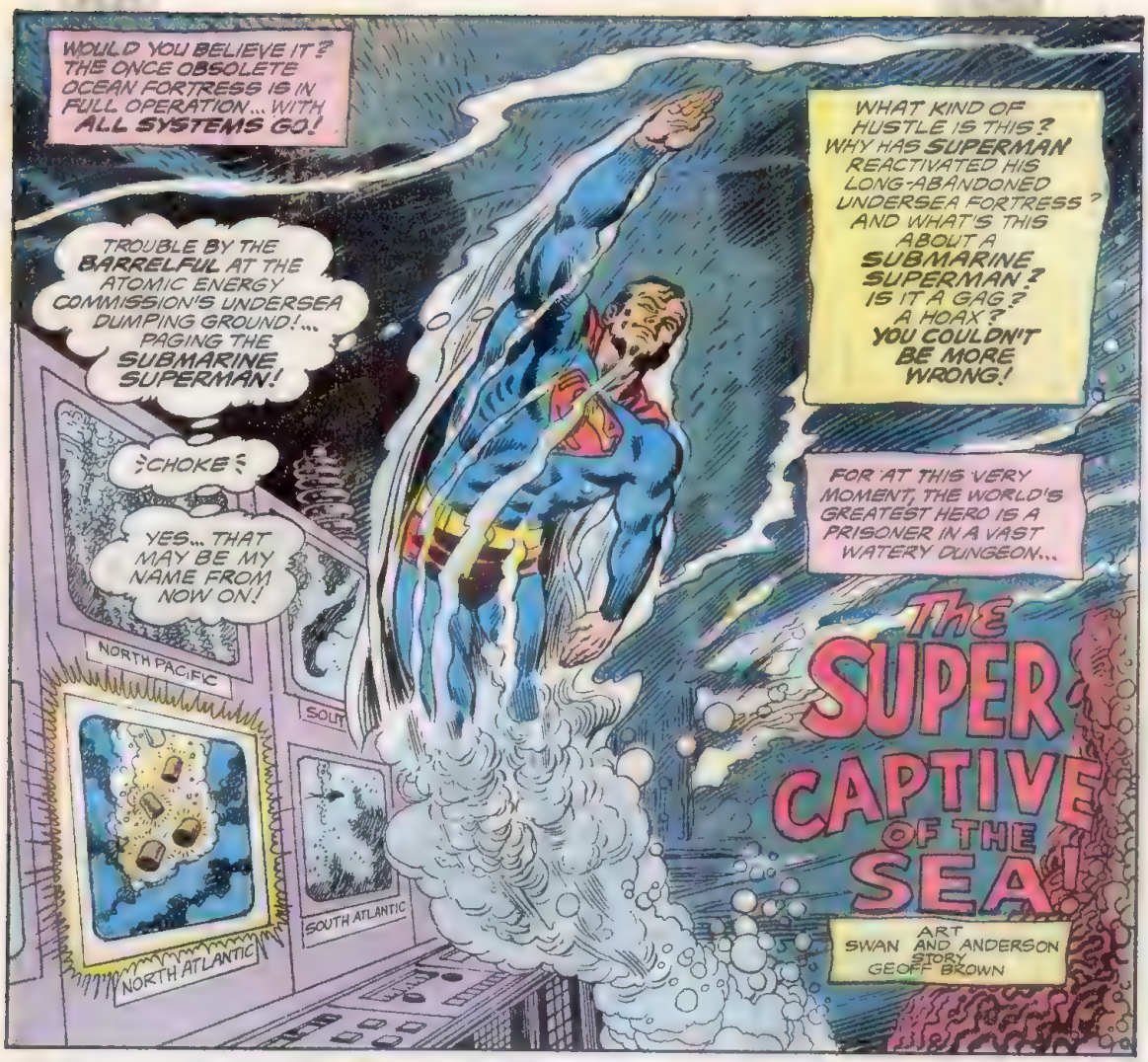
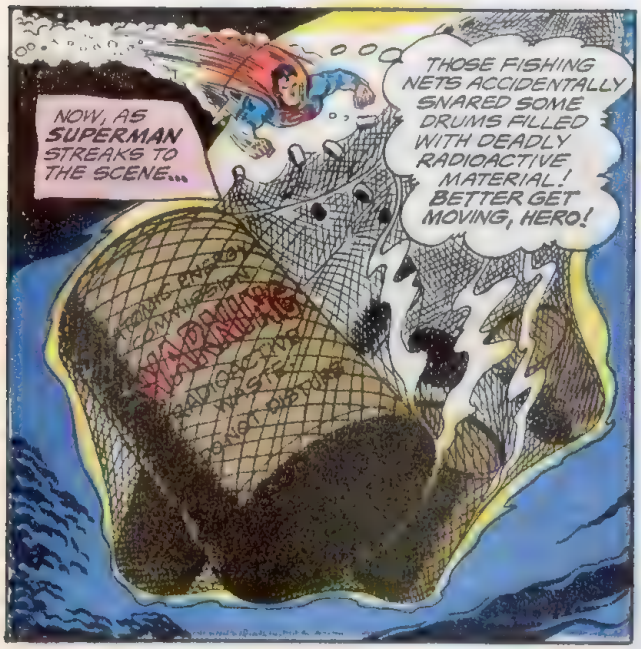

SUPERMAN
REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.
Untold TALES OF THE FORTRESS
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD MEN SPEAK IN AWE OF SUPERMAN'S MIGHTY BASTION, HIDDEN IN THE REMOTE ARCTIC WASTE-LANDS!
B-848


BUT DID YOU KNOW THAT THE MAN OF STEEL ONCE BUILT A STRONGHOLD IN SPACE, DISGUISED AS A FIERY METEOR?


AND, LONG AGO, THIS CITADEL BENEATH THE SEA WAS SUPERMAN'S SUBMARINE FORTRESS! IT'S BEEN DESERTED FOR YEARS..


BUT HOLD IT! IS SOMEBODY PUTTING US ON? WHAT'S SUPERMAN DOING DOWN HERE, UNLOCKING THE DESERTED UNDERSEA HEADQUARTERS?
1

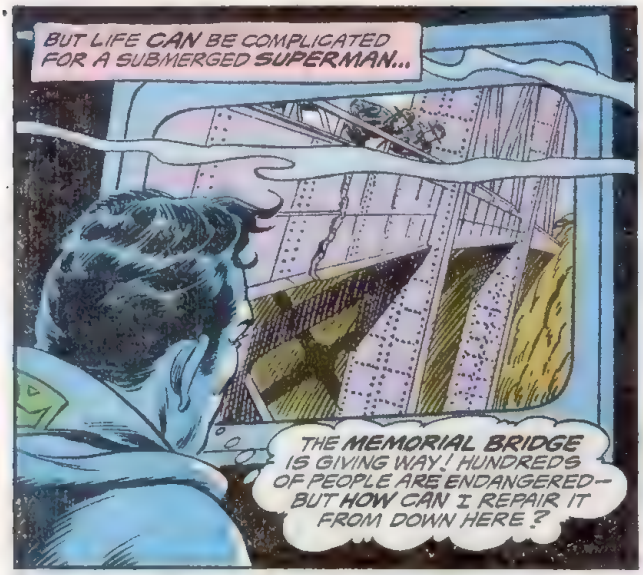

WOULD YOU BELIEVE IT? THE ONCE OBSOLETE OCEAN FORTRESS IS IN FULL OPERATION... WITH ALL SYSTEMS GO!
TROUBLE BY THE BARRELFUL AT THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION'S UNDERSEA DUMPING GROUND!... PAGING THE SUBMARINE SUPERMAN!
WHAT KIND OF HUSTLE IS THIS? WHY HAS SUPERMAN REACTIVATED HIS LONG-ABANDONED UNDERSEA FORTRESS? AND WHAT'S THIS ABOUT A SUBMARINE SUPERMAN? IS IT A GAG? A HOAX? YOU COULDN'T BE MORE WRONG!
;CHOKE;
YES... THAT MAY BE MY NAME FROM NOW ON!
FOR AT THIS VERY MOMENT, THE WORLD'S GREATEST HERO IS A PRISONER IN A VAST WATERY DUNGEON...
NORTH PACIFIC
SOUTH ATLANTIC
NORTH ATLANTIC
The SUPER CAPTIVE OF THE SEA!
ART SWAN AND ANDERSON
STORY GEOFF BROWN

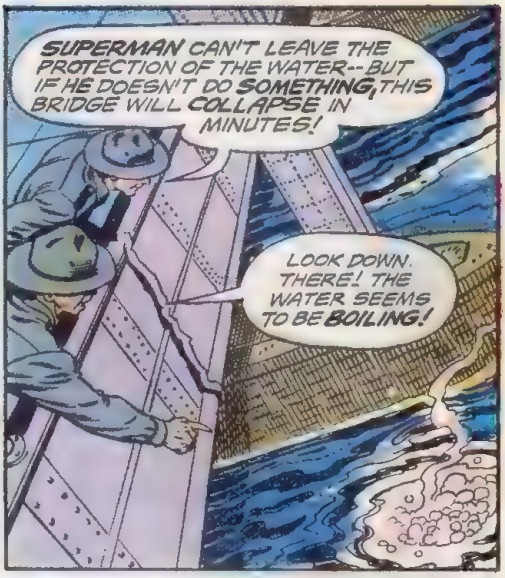

NOW, AS SUPERMAN STREAKS TO THE SCENE...
THOSE FISHING NETS ACCIDENTALLY SNARED SOME DRUMS FILLED WITH DEADLY RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL! BETTER GET MOVING, HERO!

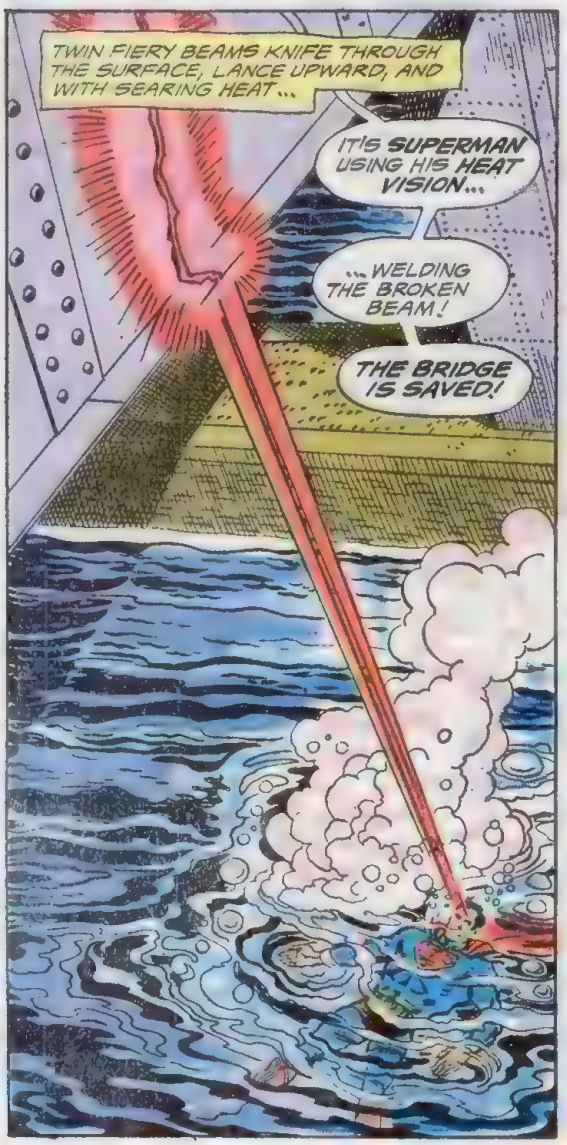
HUH? TWO SHADOWS... HMM! COULD BE DIVERS! CAN'T WORRY ABOUT THEM NOW! I'VE GOT TO FREE THOSE DRUMS!

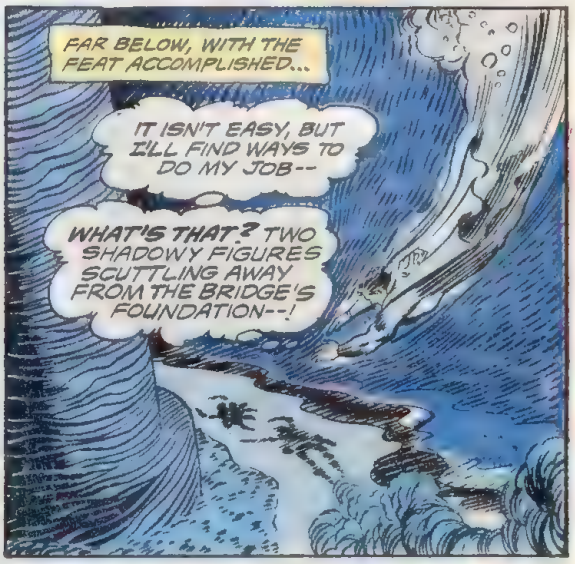
AS STEEL-HARD FINGERS RIP THE NETS...
NOW TO CATCH THOSE BARRELS BEFORE THEY HIT BOTTOM AND SPLIT OPEN!
MOMENTS LATER...
I'LL STASH THESE DANGEROUS DRUMS IN THIS CREVICE!
UH-OH! ONE DRUM IS STILL TANGLED IN THAT NET! AND IT'S BEING PULLED TO THE SURFACE! IF THERE'S A LEAK, IT'S CURTAINS FOR THOSE FISHERMEN!
SHORTLY, SUPERMAN ERUPTS LIKE A MIGHTY MISSILE...A MISSILE COMPLETELY OUT OF CONTROL...
SUPERMAN, WHY DID YOU DO IT?
THE PINK POLLUTION HAS THROWN YOU OUT OUT OF CONTROL! GET BACK BENEATH THE SURFACE!
WHOOOOSH!
GASP! I FORGOT!
THE OSCILLATION EFFECT! IN THE URGENCY OF MY MISSION, I FORGOT ALL ABOUT THAT POLLUTION CLOUD AND ITS WEIRD EFFECT ON MY POWERS!
"I REMEMBER HOW IT STARTED... ON THAT DAY AT CAPE KENNEDY WHEN SCIENTISTS FIRST NOTICED..."
THAT STRANGE CLOUD APPEARED OUT OF NOWHERE! IT'S EXPANDING RAPIDLY, RIGHT IN EARTH'S ORBIT!
PROBABLY SOME SORT OF SPACE DUST, BUT IT MIGHT INTERFERE WITH OUR VENUS-SHOT LAUNCH! BETTER ALERT SUPERMAN!

"SUMMONED, I HEADED SPACEWARD TO CHECK, BUT WITHIN SECONDS..."
THAT CLOUD IS COVERING THE ENTIRE STRATOSPHERE! SOMEHOW IT'S AFFECTING THE CONTROL OF MY POWERS! I HAVE NO SENSE OF DIRECTION!
"LIKE A FAULTY ROCKET, I PLUNGED INTO THE SEA..."
SPLAAAASSHH
POUR IT ON! WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT THERE IN TIME TO WARN SUPERMAN!
OUR TRACKING DEVICES INDICATED THAT VAST PINK CLOUD AFFECTED YOUR FLIGHT PATH FROM THE MOMENT YOU TOOK OFF!
IT'S SOME KIND OF SPACE POLLUTION, BUT IT HASN'T AFFECTED ANYONE EXCEPT YOU!
YOUR BEST BET IS TO SUBMERGE IMMEDIATELY! MAYBE YOU WON'T BE AFFECTED BELOW!
YOU'RE RIGHT! I'M GETTING GROGGIER BY THE SECOND!
PERHAPS SUPERGIRL WILL HELP ME WHEN SHE RETURNS FROM A MISSION!
"BUT LATER, AS I WATCHED WITH MY TELESCOPIC VISION FROM THE SEA FLOOR..."
UH-OH! SUPERGIRL'S BEEN AFFECTED, TOO! SHE'LL HAVE TO LEAVE EARTH'S VICINITY! I'M ALONE NOW... TRAPPED UNDER THE SEA!
LUCKILY THAT CLOUD DOESN'T INFLUENCE ME DOWN HERE! I'LL TRY TO PERFORM MY DUTIES AS BEST AS I CAN WITH MY OLD FORTRESS AS HOME BASE!


BUT LIFE CAN BE COMPLICATED FOR A SUBMERGED SUPERMAN...
THE MEMORIAL BRIDGE IS GIVING WAY! HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE ARE ENDANGERED-- BUT HOW CAN I REPAIR IT FROM DOWN HERE?


SUPERMAN CAN'T LEAVE THE PROTECTION OF THE WATER-- BUT IF HE DOESN'T DO SOMETHING, THIS BRIDGE WILL COLLAPSE IN MINUTES!
LOOK DOWN, THERE! THE WATER SEEMS TO BE BOILING!


TWIN FIERY BEAMS KNIFE THROUGH THE SURFACE, LANCE UPWARD, AND WITH SEARING HEAT...
IT'S SUPERMAN USING HIS HEAT VISION...
...WELDING THE BROKEN BEAM!
THE BRIDGE IS SAVED!


FAR BELOW, WITH THE FEAT ACCOMPLISHED...
IT ISN'T EASY, BUT I'LL FIND WAYS TO DO MY JOB--
WHAT'S THAT? TWO SHADOWY FIGURES SCUTTLING AWAY FROM THE BRIDGE'S FOUNDATION--!

HUH! THEY WERE SPIDER CRABS!

IN THE LONG, LONELY DAYS THAT FOLLOW, SUPERMAN'S TELESCOPIC VISION KEEPS HIM IN TOUCH WITH THE WORLD ABOVE...
WHAT A SLIDE! SAFE AT HOME!
SAFE AT HOME! SIGH! HOW I WISH I WERE BACK HOME MEETING MY OLD FRIENDS...TALKING TO THEM!
THREE-FOURTHS OF THE WORLD IS COVERED BY WATER, YET IT'S THE WORLD UP THERE WHICH IS CLOSEST TO MY HEART!
NEXT DAY, AS HE'S CALLED UPON TO HANDLE ANOTHER CHORE...
A GIANT SQUID ENTANGLED IN THIS CABLE!
YOU'RE TYING UP TRANS-ATLANTIC COMMUNICATIONS! HOLD STILL, BUSTER! I'LL HAVE YOU FREE IN SECONDS!
THESE MYSTERIOUS SHADOWS AGAIN! I KNOW I'M SEEING THINGS... YET... I'VE GOT TO CHECK!
STINGRAYS! HA, HA! THAT'S ALL THEY WERE!

THEN, ONE DAY...
NORTH PACIFIC
A VALUABLE FOREST OF REDWOODS GOING UP IN FLAMES! HOW DO I HANDLE THIS ONE?
I GOT IT!
LUCKILY THAT FIRE IS NEAR THE COAST! IF MY CALCULATIONS ARE CORRECT, THIS SUNKEN TANKER SHOULD KICK UP A TIDAL WAVE JUST STRONG ENOUGH TO...
WOULD YOU BELIEVE IT? THAT TIDAL WAVE CAME OUT OF NOWHERE TO DOUSE THAT FOREST FIRE! I SAY IT'S A MIRACLE!
MIRACLE, MY FOOT! TEN TO ONE, SUPERMAN PUT IT OUT!
MEANWHILE...
THOSE SUSPICIOUS TWIN SHADOWS AGAIN! WHY DO I KEEP SEEING THEM AFTER EVERY MISSION? THEY'RE HEADED FOR THAT CAVE!
WHATEVER THEY ARE, I'VE GOT THEM CORNERED NOW!
SUSPICIOUS SHADOWS! HAH! THEY WERE ELECTRIC EELS!
THIS UNDERWATER LIFE IS AFFECTING MY MIND! EITHER I END THIS SUBMERGED ROUTINE OR I'LL GO BUGHOUSE! I'VE GOT TO GET AN IDEA--!
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING
7

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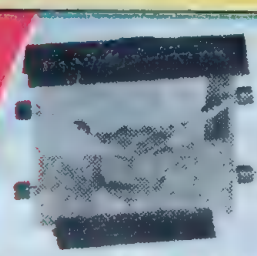

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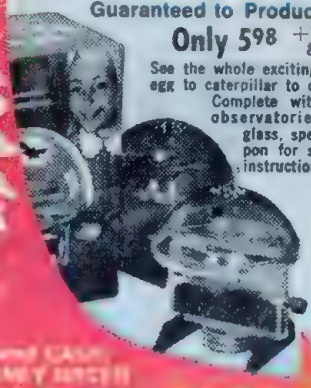

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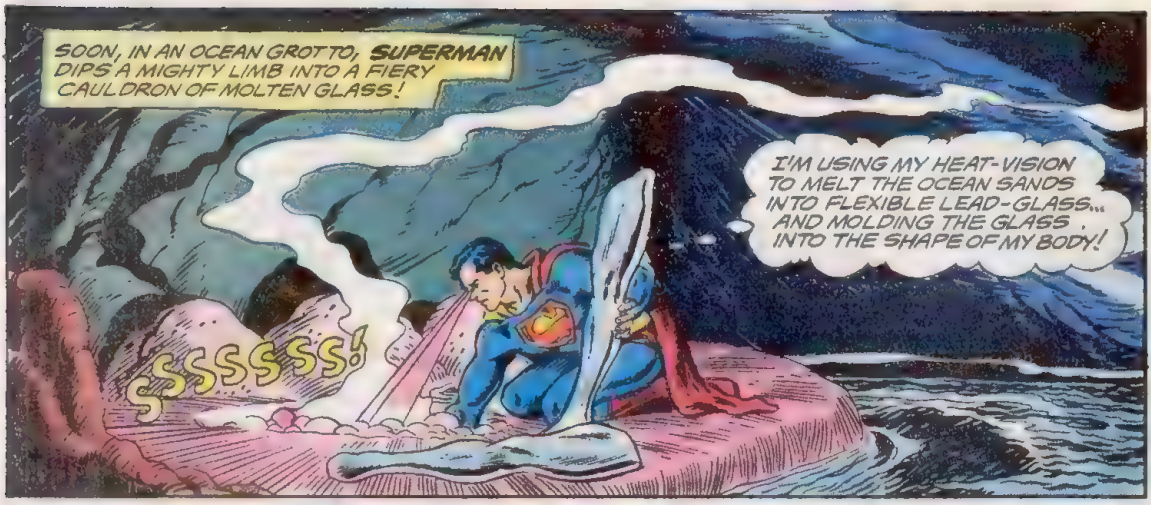
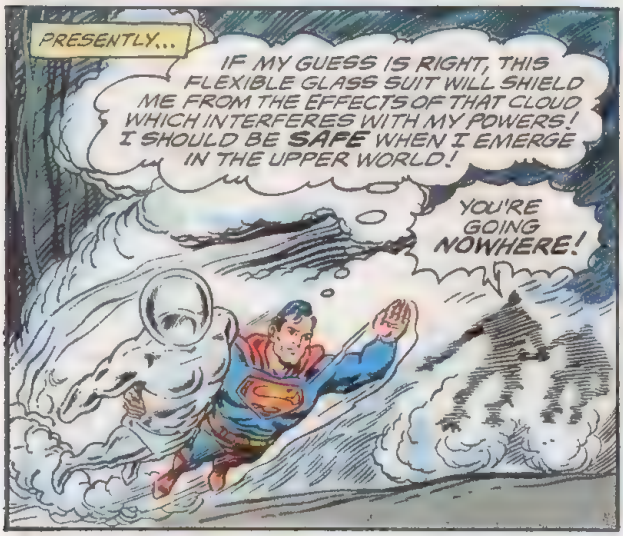
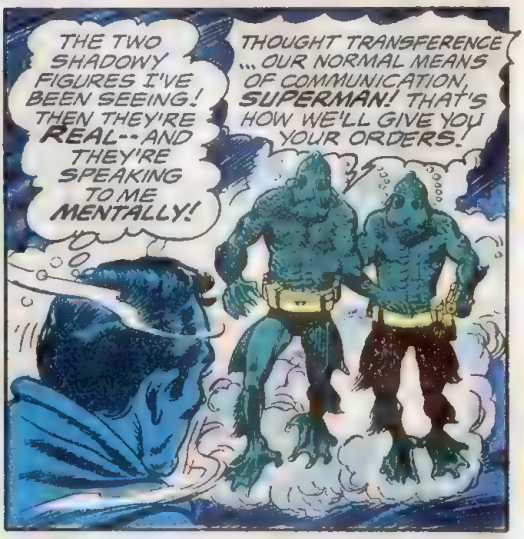
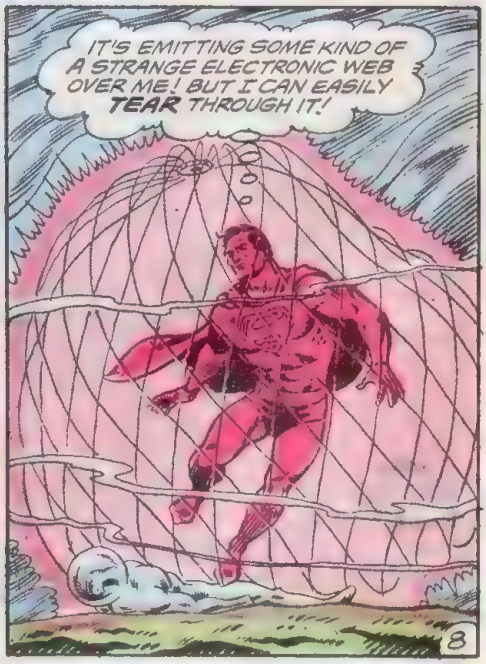
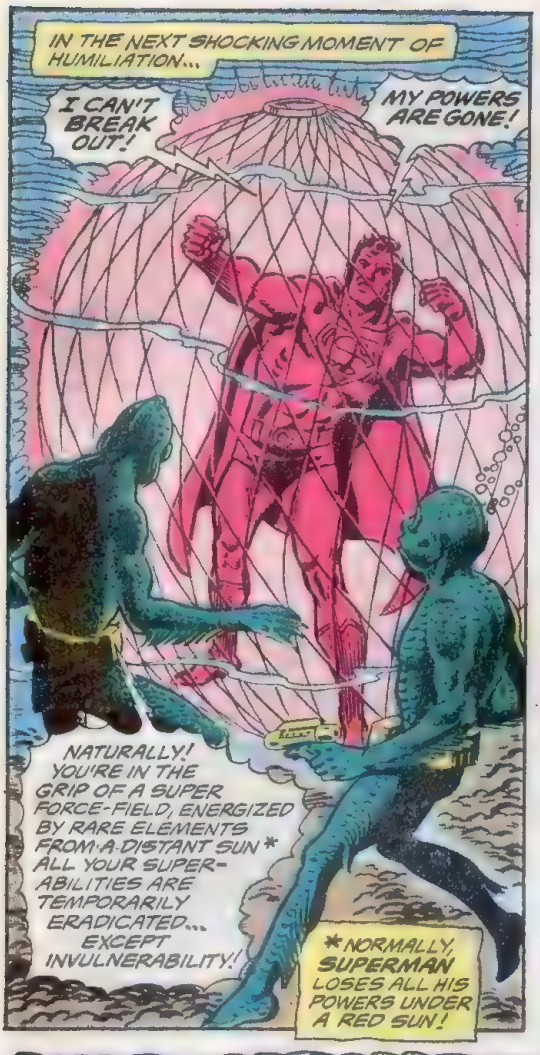

SOON, IN AN OCEAN GROTTO, SUPERMAN DIPS A MIGHTY LIMB INTO A FIERY CAULDRON OF MOLTEN GLASS!
I'M USING MY HEAT-VISION TO MELT THE OCEAN SANDS INTO FLEXIBLE LEAD-GLASS... AND MOLDING THE GLASS INTO THE SHAPE OF MY BODY!
SSSSSS!

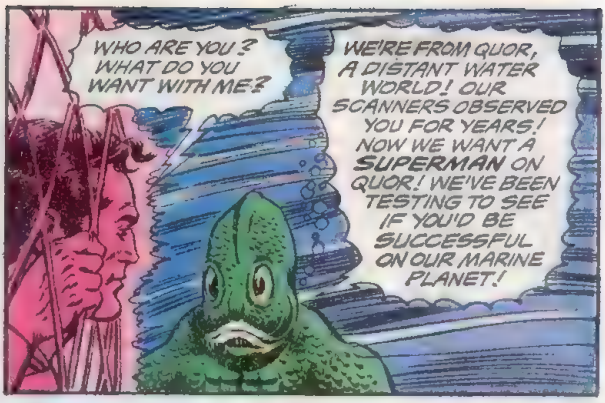

PRESENTLY...
IF MY GUESS IS RIGHT, THIS FLEXIBLE GLASS SUIT WILL SHIELD ME FROM THE EFFECTS OF THAT CLOUD WHICH INTERFERES WITH MY POWERS! I SHOULD BE SAFE WHEN I EMERGE IN THE UPPER WORLD!
YOU'RE GOING NOWHERE!

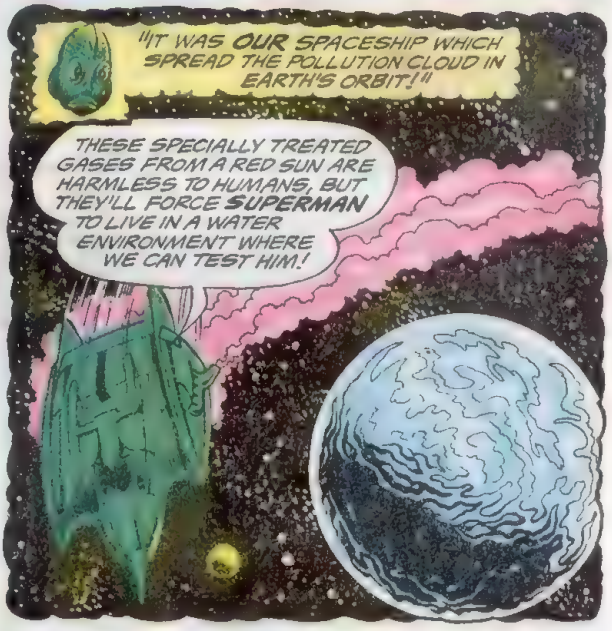

THE TWO SHADOWY FIGURES I'VE BEEN SEEING! THEN THEY'RE REAL--AND THEY'RE SPEAKING TO ME MENTALLY!
THOUGHT TRANSFERENCE ... OUR NORMAL MEANS OF COMMUNICATION, SUPERMAN! THAT'S HOW WE'LL GIVE YOU YOUR ORDERS!

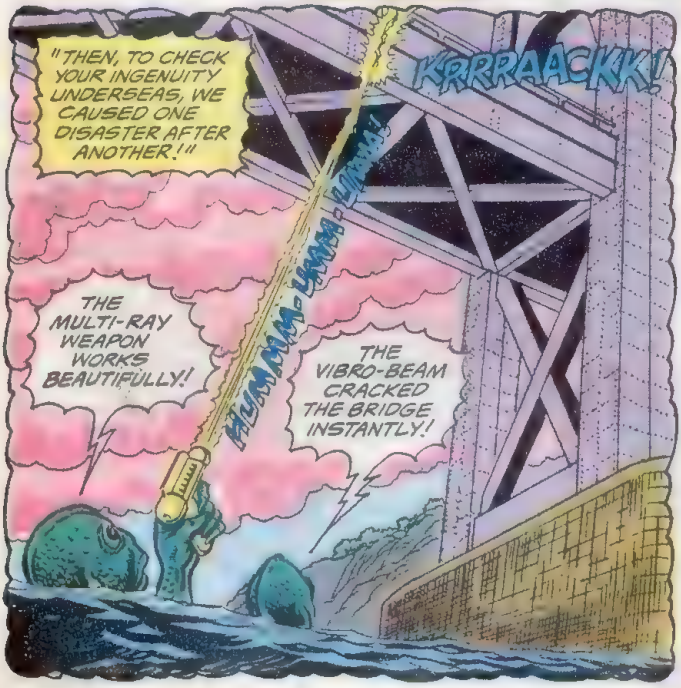
AND TO MAKE SURE YOU OBEY--
IF THAT'S SOME KIND OF WEAPON, DON'T YOU KNOW I'M INVULNERABLE?
WE STUDIED YOUR POWERS! NOW YOU'LL LEARN ABOUT OURS!

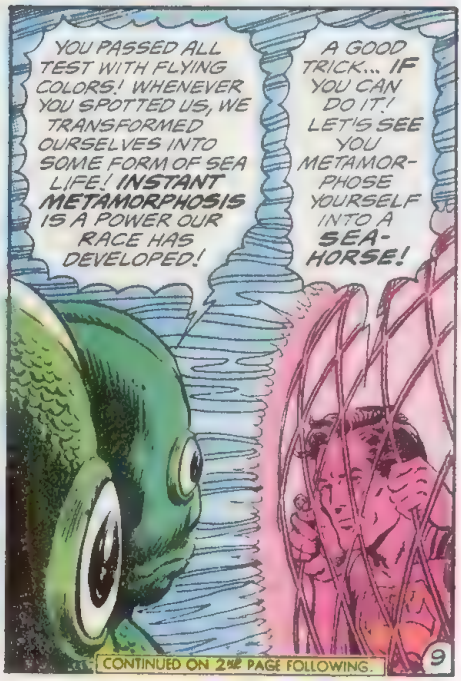

IT'S EMITTING SOME KIND OF A STRANGE ELECTRONIC WEB OVER ME! BUT I CAN EASILY TEAR THROUGH IT!


IN THE NEXT SHOCKING MOMENT OF HUMILIATION...
I CAN'T BREAK OUT!
MY POWERS ARE GONE!
NATURALLY! YOU'RE IN THE GRIP OF A SUPER FORCE-FIELD, ENERGIZED BY RARE ELEMENTS FROM A DISTANT SUN * ALL YOUR SUPER-ABILITIES ARE TEMPORARILY ERADICATED... EXCEPT INVULNERABILITY!
*NORMALLY, SUPERMAN LOSES ALL HIS POWERS UNDER A RED SUN!


WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME?
WE'RE FROM QUOR, A DISTANT WATER WORLD! OUR SCANNERS OBSERVED YOU FOR YEARS! NOW WE WANT A SUPERMAN ON QUOR! WE'VE BEEN TESTING TO SEE IF YOU'D BE SUCCESSFUL ON OUR MARINE PLANET!


"IT WAS OUR SPACESHIP WHICH SPREAD THE POLLUTION CLOUD IN EARTH'S ORBIT!"
THESE SPECIALLY TREATED GASES FROM A RED SUN ARE HARMLESS TO HUMANS, BUT THEY'LL FORCE SUPERMAN TO LIVE IN A WATER ENVIRONMENT WHERE WE CAN TEST HIM!


"THEN, TO CHECK YOUR INGENUITY UNDERSEAS, WE CAUSED ONE DISASTER AFTER ANOTHER!"
KRRRAACKK!
THE MULTI-RAY WEAPON WORKS BEAUTIFULLY!
THE VIBRO-BEAM CRACKED THE BRIDGE INSTANTLY!


YOU PASSED ALL TEST WITH FLYING COLORS! WHENEVER YOU SPOTTED US, WE TRANSFORMED OURSELVES INTO SOME FORM OF SEA LIFE! INSTANT METAMORPHOSIS IS A POWER OUR RACE HAS DEVELOPED!
A GOOD TRICK... IF YOU CAN DO IT! LET'S SEE YOU METAMORPHOSE YOURSELF INTO A SEA-HORSE!
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

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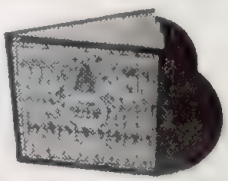
THE BIG BALL

Over 20 outstanding record artists meet in an all-new and grossly underpriced ($2) two-record set.

All the artists whose beauty you can see above, plus lots more (like Gordon Lightfoot, Tim Buckley, Ed Sanders of the Fugs, the Muldaurs, the Fifth Avenue Band...) are giving up their royalties to bring you THE BIG BALL. What this means is that for two bucks you can get mailed to your home, hovel, or box a classy two-record album, 28 stereo selections crammed with good musical things on four full sides, all new stuff for 1970.

With unaccustomed grace, Warner/Reprise is not making a buck on any of this. In supermarkets this sort of thing is called a loss leader, but in the record biz it's a very suspicious thing to do. Anyway...

There's only one way to get THE BIG BALL: by mail. No retail merchants. No stores. No markups. **Should you be justifiably wary of mail order hypes, we can't blame you. We have, however, a happy history of doing good by mail. THE BIG BALL's two ancestors, SONGBOOK and RECORD SHOW, were sent to a whole lot of satisfied orderers-by-mail in 1969. (In case you missed those previous epics, we provide you with their pictures and order form here.)**



RECORD SHOW: Two LPs featuring Jethro Tull, Peter, Paul & Mary, Kinks, Mothers of Invention, Joni Mitchell, Neil Young, Van Dyke Parks and lots of others.

SONGBOOK: Two full albums starring Jimi Hendrix, Arlo Guthrie, Everly Bros., Pentangle, Fugs, Sweetwater and a host more.

About one of these epics some long-haired creep from Richmond, Virginia wrote us, "Got your Songbook and Record Show things. Well, I finally found a record company that gives a damn. Bless your hearts."

We have a hunch he was right. There's only one way you can find out if the good fairy is still breathing. It's called the nearby coupon...

That done, we'll send you our extravagant BIG BALL set, featuring such delights as:

- One of John Sebastian's brand-newest songs.
- James Taylor's title track from his new album—"Sweet Baby James."
- Fleetwood Mac's fantastic "Oh Well."
- A released-only-in-England Kinks song.
- Pentangle's new version of classic oldie, "Sally Go Round the Roses."
- And about 23 other lovelies...

THE BIG BALL (plus such others as you have the cash for) will then be got to you as fast as the clowns in our mail room can pull it all together.

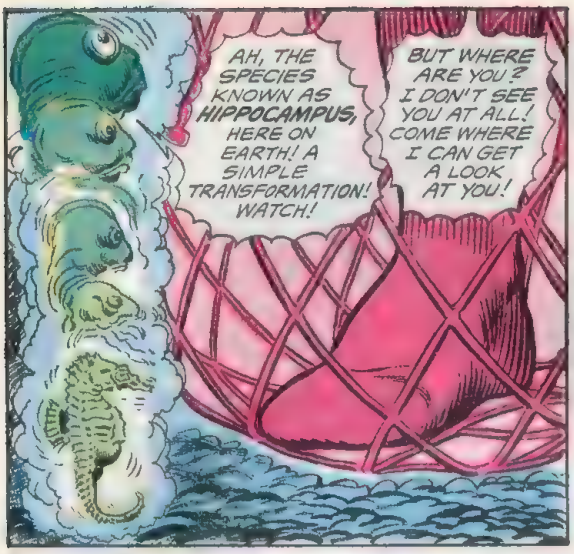
To: THE BIG BALL • Room 208 DC
Warner Bros. Records, Burbank, Ca. 91505
Dear Big Ball:
Please send me what I've checked, and do it as fast as you can:
☐ THE BIG BALL LP ($2)
☐ RECORD SHOW LP ($2)
☐ SONGBOOK LP ($2)

Name _____

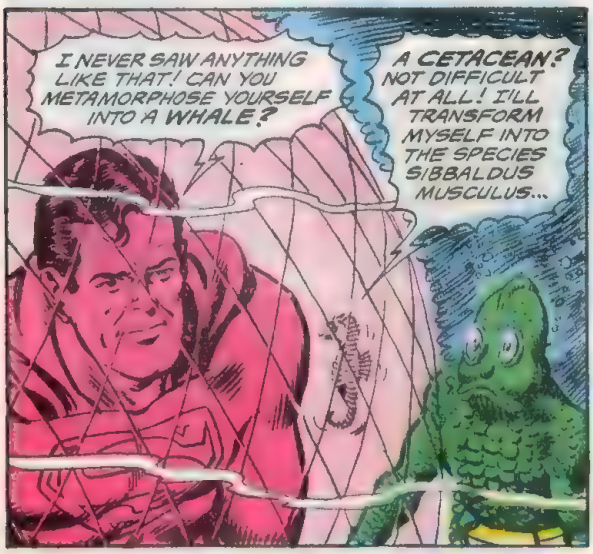
Address _____

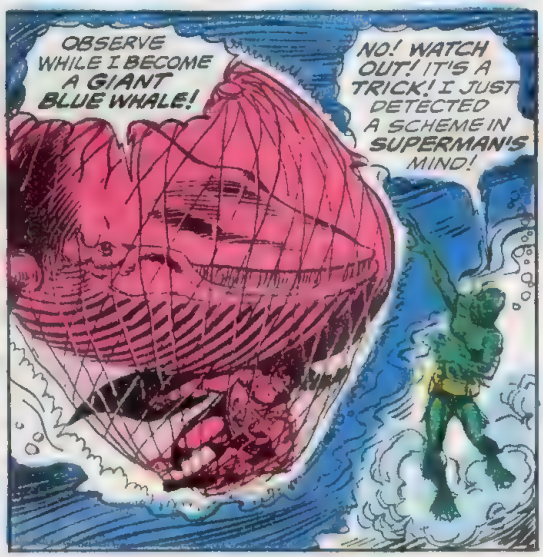
_____

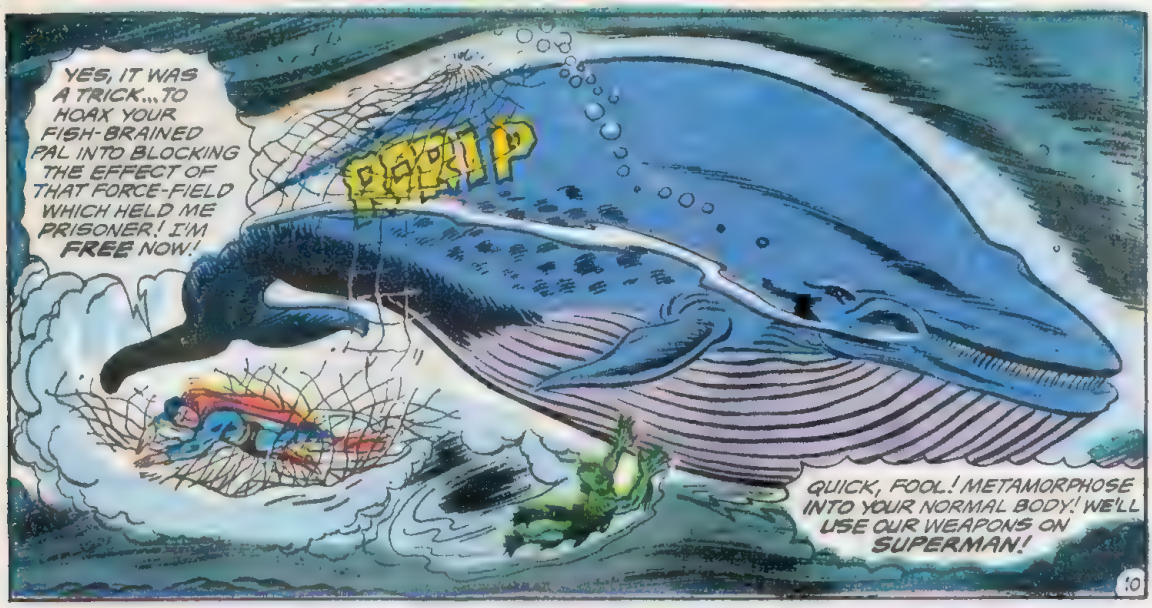
Make checks payable to Warner Bros. Records

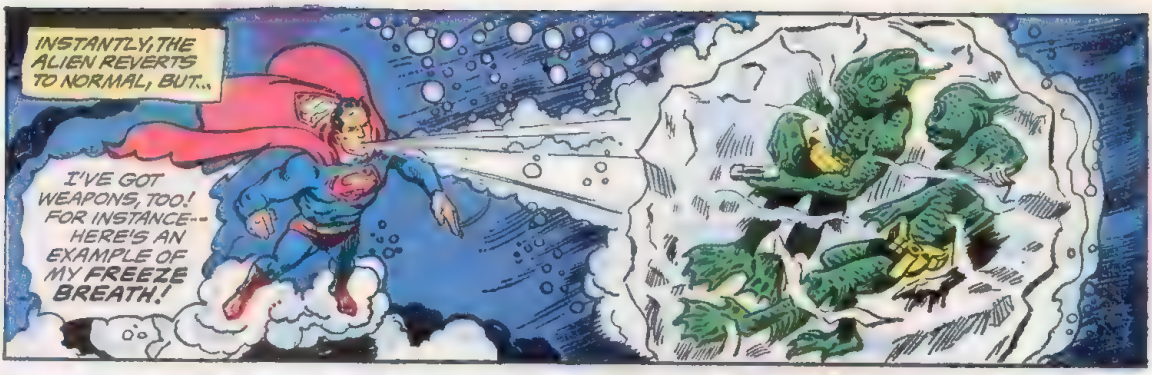

AH, THE SPECIES KNOWN AS HIPPOCAMPUS, HERE ON EARTH! A SIMPLE TRANSFORMATION! WATCH!
BUT WHERE ARE YOU? I DON'T SEE YOU AT ALL! COME WHERE I CAN GET A LOOK AT YOU!

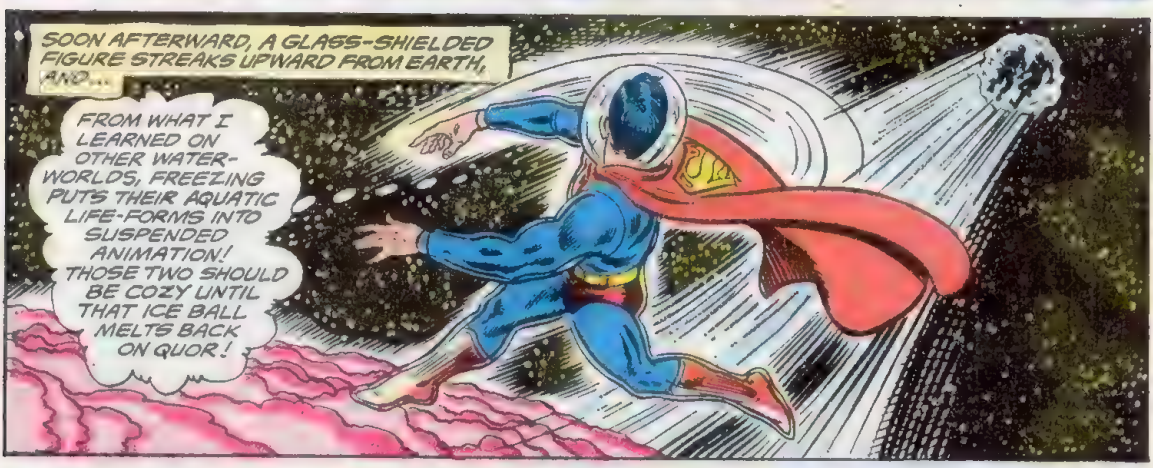
HERE I AM-- RIGHT UNDER YOUR NOSE!
FABULOUS! HOW COULD YOU SHRINK YOURSELF TO THAT TINY SIZE?

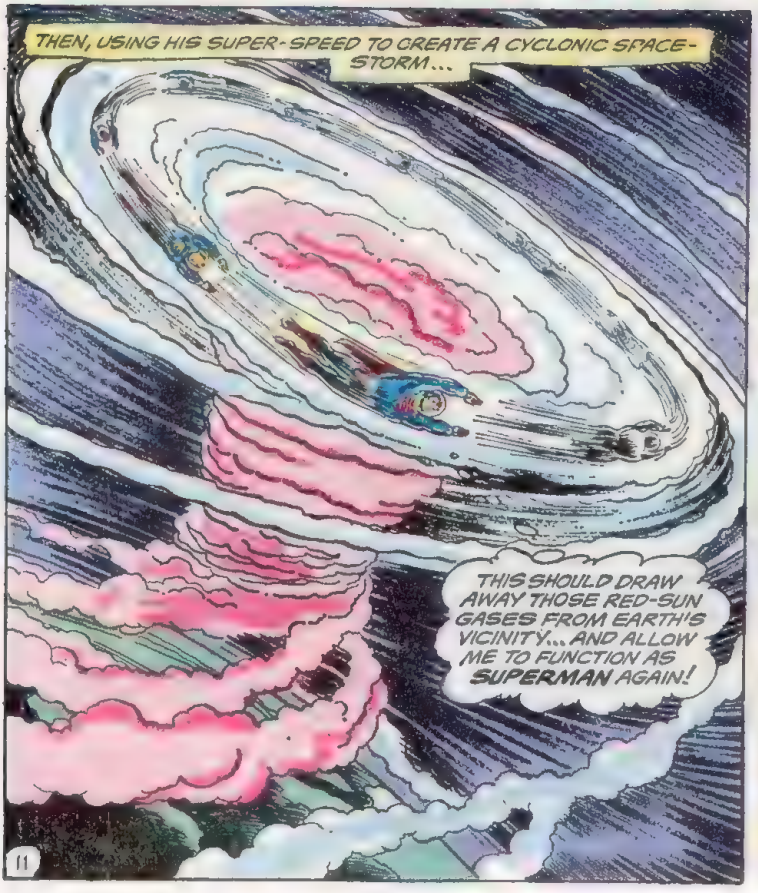

I NEVER SAW ANYTHING LIKE THAT! CAN YOU METAMORPHOSE YOURSELF INTO A WHALE?
A CETACEAN? NOT DIFFICULT AT ALL! I'LL TRANSFORM MYSELF INTO THE SPECIES SIBBALDUS MUSCULUS...

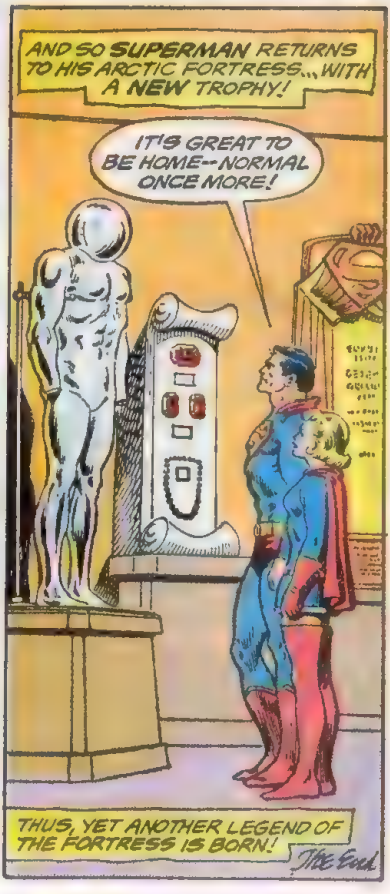

OBSERVE WHILE I BECOME A GIANT BLUE WHALE!
NO! WATCH OUT! IT'S A TRICK! I JUST DETECTED A SCHEME IN SUPERMAN'S MIND!

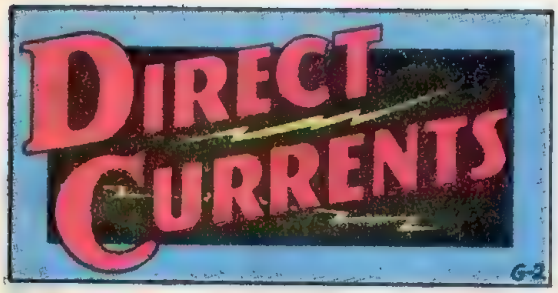

YES, IT WAS A TRICK... TO HOAX YOUR FISH-BRAINED PAL INTO BLOCKING THE EFFECT OF THAT FORCE-FIELD WHICH HELD ME PRISONER! I'M FREE NOW!
BLOOP
QUICK, FOOL! METAMORPHOSE INTO YOUR NORMAL BODY! WE'LL USE OUR WEAPONS ON SUPERMAN!


INSTANTLY, THE ALIEN REVERTS TO NORMAL, BUT...
I'VE GOT WEAPONS, TOO! FOR INSTANCE-- HERE'S AN EXAMPLE OF MY FREEZE BREATH!


SOON AFTERWARD, A GLASS-SHIELDED FIGURE STREAKS UPWARD FROM EARTH, AND...
FROM WHAT I LEARNED ON OTHER WATER-WORLDS, FREEZING PUTS THEIR AQUATIC LIFE-FORMS INTO SUSPENDED ANIMATION! THOSE TWO SHOULD BE COZY UNTIL THAT ICE BALL MELTS BACK ON QUOR!


THEN, USING HIS SUPER-SPEED TO CREATE A CYCLONIC SPACE-STORM...
THIS SHOULD DRAW AWAY THOSE RED-SUN GASES FROM EARTH'S VICINITY... AND ALLOW ME TO FUNCTION AS SUPERMAN AGAIN!


AND SO SUPERMAN RETURNS TO HIS ARCTIC FORTRESS... WITH A NEW TROPHY!
IT'S GREAT TO BE HOME--NORMAL ONCE MORE!
THUS, YET ANOTHER LEGEND OF THE FORTRESS IS BORN!
The End



The **March FROM BEYOND THE UNKNOWN** (#9) rockets your way with seven spectacular sci-fi stories. There are **64 pages,** headed by a top cover tale, "The Man Who Moved the World!" Among other great adventures of the future is a real smash illoed by **Carmine Infantino**—"Two-Way Time Traveler!" The guy in this one is like a human pendulum in time—swinging between the past and the future! And there's "The Last Horse on Earth"—about the time when horses are extinct, but one man, inspired by **DC's** own **Johnny Thunder,** still finds a way to recreate the old West! These and much more—on sale **Dec. 15!**

Speaking of the **Old West,** you **must** see the **March ALL-STAR WESTERN** (#4)! **Robert Kanigher** did his usual superb job on the two fabulous features in this ish—**Outlaw,** illoed by **Gil Kane,** and **El Diablo,** with art by **Gray Morrow! Outlaw** stars in a startling action tale titled "No Coffin for a Killer," while **El Diablo** does his stuff in "Satan with Spurs!" For all Western fans, this is an issue not to be missed! Get it **Dec. 15!**

Another giant package of battle action explodes on the stands **Dec. 8,** when the **March G.I. COMBAT** comes out! It's **64 pages** of excitement, headed by a new **Haunted Tank** tale drawn by **Rugged Russ Heath!** This is based on the science of leverage, and it's called "Move the World!" One more surprise—the **Haunted Tank** is "cut up" into **three parts** to fight enemies coming from three directions at once! How's it done? Get **#146** and find out!

You'll learn more about the **Man of Steel's** mysterious new weakness when you read the **February SUPERMAN** (#234). That weakness nearly fouls up the **Metropolis Marvel** for good when he tries to save the inhabitants of an island from a volcanic eruption—but finds the law forbids him to act! Between legal troubles and a **thing** which is draining his powers, **Supie** is sure having his troubles in "How to Tame a Wild Volcano!" And so does his dad, **Jor-El,** in this issue's **World of Krypton** story, "Prison-in-the-Sky"—which tells why **Krypton** started putting convicts into orbit! On sale **Dec. 15.**

There are three new weirdies for you fright-fans in the **March WITCHING HOUR** (#13—say, no wonder it's so **scary!**) There's "The Maze," written by **Marv Wolfman** and illoed by **Gray Morrow** (with names like that, they **should** be good at the spook-stuff!) There's "The Accursed Clay," the last story written by the late **Jack Miller**—with art by **Jack Sparling** and **Frank Giacoia!** And there's "The Rush-Hour Ride of Abner Pringle," an off-beat bit by **Len Wein,** drawn by **Jose Delbo!** On sale **Dec. 17.**

A selection of the best war stories **DC** has ever published appears in the **GIANT OUR ARMY AT WAR,** starring **Sgt. Rock!** The top battle artists are represented in this **March** issue (**G-80**; **#229**), and the tales are the most terrific yet! **Rock** will be there, of course, leading **Easy Company;** and **Jeb Stuart** will be thundering along in the **Haunted Tank!** Believe you me, **Joe Kubert** has picked out a sizzling selection—and it goes on sale **Dec. 17!**

Youth takes over in "Rebels in the Streets"—the **Batman-Teen Titans** team-up in the **March** ish of **THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD** (#94)! What's more, the **TT's** join the youthful conquerors, which pits them smack against the **Masked Manhunter!** This saga of the **Generation Gap** was scripted by **Bob Haney** and illoed by the incomparable **Nick Cardy! So don't** dare miss this one—it's as **now** as tomorrow's newspaper! On sale **Dec. 24.**

Which brings me to the **March** issue of **GREEN LANTERN,** co-starring **Green Arrow** and the **Black Canary! "How Do You Fight a Nightmare?"** is the gripping title of a tale that pits our thrilling threesome against a weird band of **harpies**—half-women, half-birds of prey! What chance does a mere **Canary** have against these creatures? You'll be surprised at the outcome of this "Women's Lib" conflict! It's **#82,** on sale **Dec. 24.**

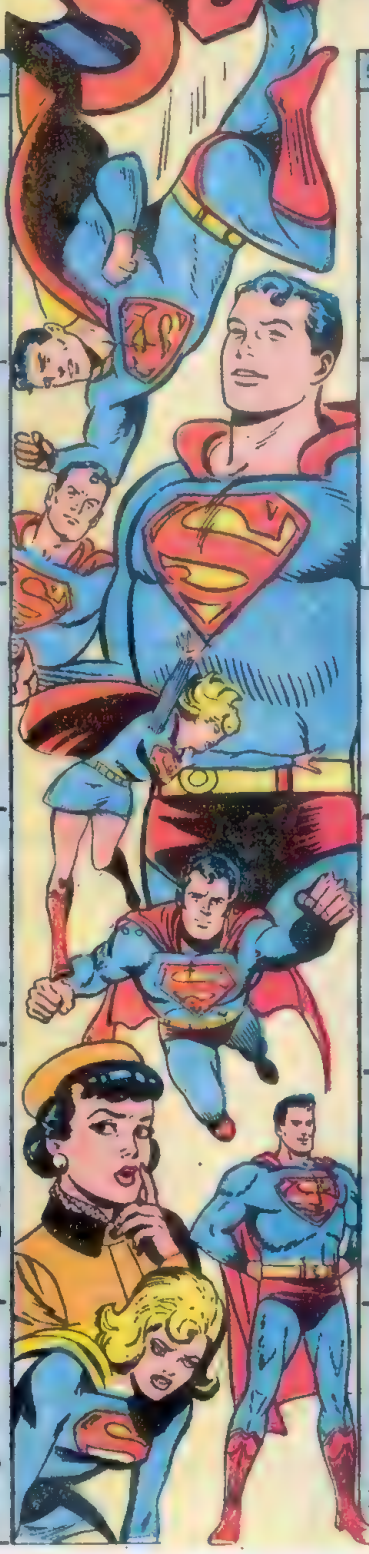
Learn the secret background of the **Unknown Soldier's** right-hand man in the **March** ish of **STAR SPANGLED WAR STORIES** (#155). It's a strange, untold tale of war and heroism—and human emotion—all in the tradition you've learned to expect in a **DC war mag! Oh, yes—Enemy Ace** is on hand again, **too, for all** you fans of **World War I** air action! Better **be ready—it goes on sale Dec. 24!** So give yourself a **Christmas** present!

Since we got rid of all **Green Kryptonite** on Earth in a **recent Superman** ish, and **Supergirl** doesn't have **her cousin's new** weakness, she's in a pretty good **spot, right? Wrong!** A villainess named **Starfire** and a handsome hood combine to hand her a **brand-new Achilles heel** when **"Love Conquers All—Even Supergirl!"** It's the **February** issue of **ADVENTURE** (#402), on sale **Dec. 29**—also featuring another exciting **Tracey Thompson** tale!

Pin-up

SUPERMAN®

1971 CALENDAR



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TV Star, Almoznino

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ONLY $2.00 plus 2 wrappers from Slo-Poke, Black Cow or 2 Milk Dud box panels.

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Name to be printed on jersey_____

Name_____ (Please Print)

Address_____

City_____

State_____ Zip Code_____

Offer void in States where prohibited.

E

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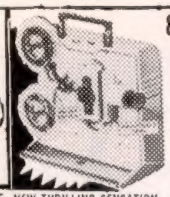

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- JUDO throws, JIU JITSO Holds
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- Endurance exercise and LOTS MORE

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WITH COMBINATION LOCK ONLY YOU CAN OPEN

Looks like any book to camouflage your valuables. Securely locked with your own private combination. Tough under-structure is covered with simulated leather binding.

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WILL YOU TAKE A CHANCE? We won't tell you what you get but because you're willing to gamble we'll give you more than your money's worth.

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Insert a blank piece of paper, turn the knob, and OUT COMES A REAL DOLLAR BILL! Insert the dollar and it changes to a $5 then the $5 changes to a $10.

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Windup novelty you wear like a ring. Your victim gets a "SHOCKING" hand shake. Absolutely harmless.

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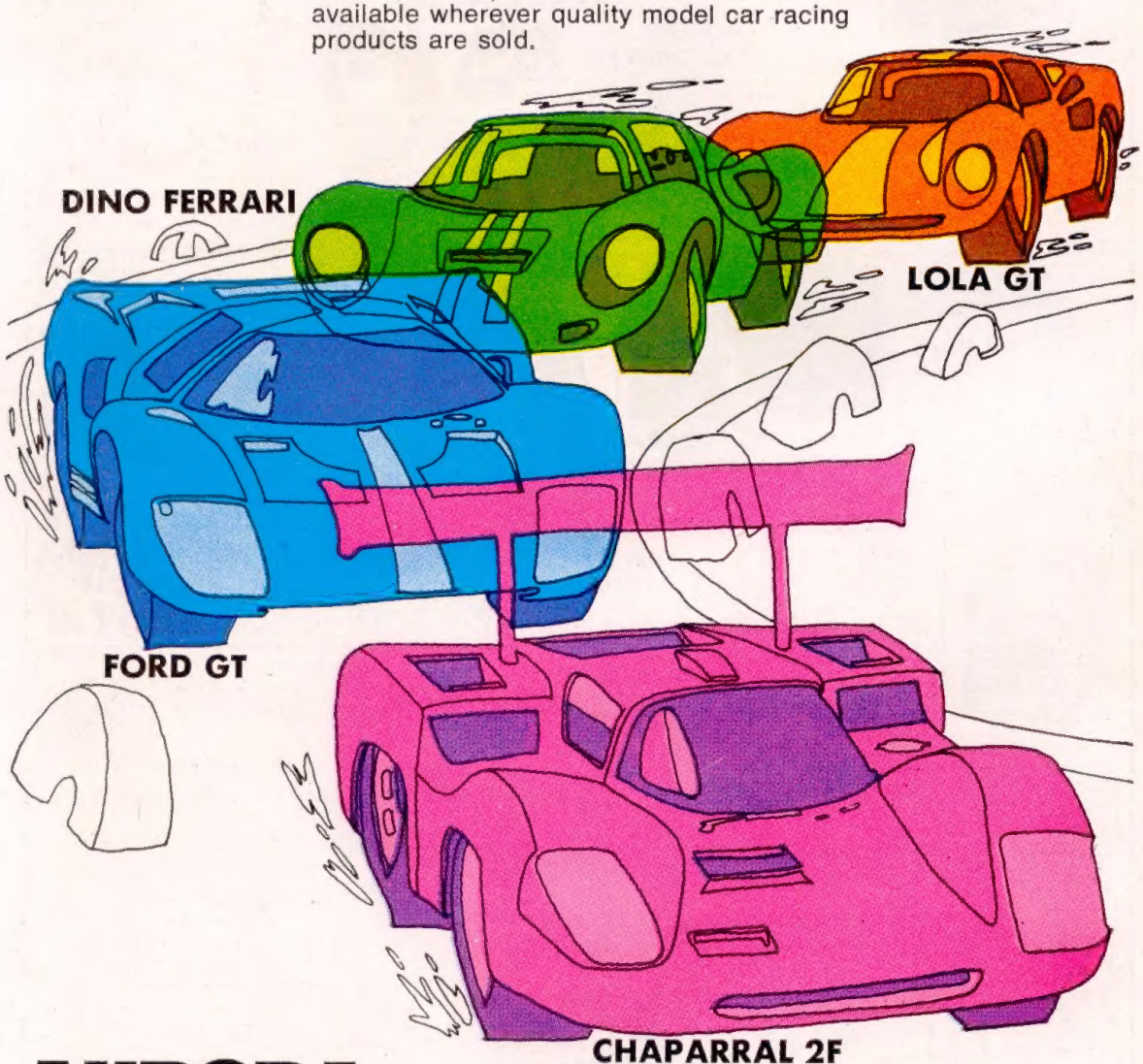

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